

Lebanon demands guarantees on refugees

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon demanded Wednesday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in its peace pact with Israel guarantee the right of return of all Palestinian refugees and said that it would hold the PLO responsible. The Lebanese government fears the PLO-Israeli pact, which was agreed last month, will lead to the permanent settlement of an estimated 350,000 Palestinians trapped in refugee camps in Lebanon. "The Palestinian side has to ask for a clear point in any agreement (with Israel) to guarantee the right of return of the refugees," Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouzou told reporters. "We ask the Palestinian side to take the responsibility for any agreement not guaranteeing the right of return," he added. In the occupied West Bank, Faisal Hussein, the leading Palestinian in the occupied territories, made it clear on Wednesday for the first time that refugees from the 1948 Israeli-Arab war can no longer expect to return to their old homes in Israel. "You will be citizens of the new state of Palestine, the state that will ... have the borders of 1967, where a new page will be turned and where you will live in dignity with all your rights," Mr. Hussein told refugees at a camp on the edge of Nablus. But most of the 350,000 Palestinian refugees stuck in camps in Lebanon fled in 1948 when the Jewish state was created.

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Talal Hassan, Yemeni envoy holds talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Wednesday met with his Yemeni counterpart Mohammad Salem Basandraw and reviewed recent developments in the Arab-Israeli peace process. Mr. Hassan stressed Jordan's commitment to the peace process, Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and the land-for-peace formula, and Israeli withdrawal of all occupied territories including Jerusalem "without which no solution can be achieved." The minister reaffirmed Jordan's support to the Palestinians and its respect to the Palestinian independent decision. Both sides reviewed bilateral relations and ways of enhancing them.

Saudis to help Palestinians — Hurd

JEDDAH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia has agreed to help finance Palestinian development plans under the autonomy deal for the Israeli-occupied territories, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said here Wednesday. "The Saudis have accepted a contribution," he told reporters at the end of a one-day visit to the kingdom. "They have accepted that the agreement needs support, especially from Arab countries." Mr. Hurd had talks with King Fahd and Foreign Minister Saad Al Faisal on the Middle East peace process, the situation in the Gulf and bilateral ties.

Campbell calls Oct. 25 elections

OTTAWA (AFP) — Canada's general election will be held Monday, Oct. 25, Prime Minister Kim Campbell announced Wednesday. The poll, Canada's 35th general election, will involve election battles in all 295 ridings (constituencies) that make up the house of commons and thousands of kilometres of travelling for the party political leaders. Currently, Ms. Campbell's Progressive Conservative Party (Tories) has an absolute majority in the house, with 154 seats and she hopes to lead her party to an unprecedented third consecutive victory by distancing herself from the Tory government of the past nine years.

U.S. warns Somalis

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Helicopters of the U.S. rapid action force in Somalia dropped leaflets over southern Mogadishu Wednesday warning Somalis to stay off their roofs at night or risk being shot. The leaflets distributed over several districts of the southern part of the capital warned civilians to remain in their homes and not to climb on their roofs during night-time exchanges of gunfire. Pilots and soldiers on board the helicopters were unable to distinguish between friendly civilians and enemy gunmen, the leaflets added. "So it is possible that if you climb on your roof you will be shot at," the leaflets said.

19 killed in Johannesburg attack

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Nineteen people were killed Wednesday night when a gang of 10 gunmen opened fire on commuters waiting to catch minibus taxis in Wadeville industrial area east of Johannesburg, police said. Twenty-two people were wounded, police said. More than 10,500 people have been killed in political violence since President F.W. de Klerk began dismantling apartheid in February 1990.

Lebanese premier seeks Saudi cash

DUBAI (R) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, a long-time associate of the Saudi royal family, was trying to persuade the kingdom on Wednesday to contribute up to \$200 million towards Lebanon's development fund. Mr. Hariri, who is touring Arab states with Arab League Secretary-General Emad Abdulla Meguid to follow up on pledges to grant Beirut \$300 million, has so far secured about \$220 million. League officials who attended a meeting with King Fahd on Tuesday in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah told Reuters by telephone Mr. Hariri was due to discuss details of a Saudi contribution with other Saudi officials later Wednesday.

Jordan Times

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جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الرأي

Cuban envoy arrives with message

AMMAN (Petra) — Cuban Deputy Prime Minister Pedro Bereto arrived in Amman Wednesday as part of a tour of the region. Mr. Bereto, special representative of Cuban President Fidel Castro, told the Jordan News agency, Petra, that he was carrying a message from the Cuban president to His Majesty King Hussein. Mr. Bereto said he will hold discussions with Jordanian officials on ways of enhancing bilateral relations. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to Jordan's support of the Cuban cause in the United Nations. He was received upon arrival by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Jawad Anani and the Cuban (non-resident) ambassador in Jordan. In a meeting between the Cuban deputy Minister and Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz, said the Jordanian government was ready to cooperate with the Cuban government in trade through opening new market for Jordanian products. Dr. Fariz said that the two sides agreed to exchange delegations and experience in the agricultural field. Jordanian imports from Cuba in 1991 reached JD 3.9 million companies with JD 395,000 last year. Jordan did not export anything to Cuba. Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jaad Al Anani also held talks with the Cuban minister.

Regent reaffirms support for independent Palestinian choice

Crown Prince spells out Jordan's concerns over some of the agreed-upon provisions

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday reiterated Jordan's support for the independent Palestinian choice and said Jordan should guard its national interests.

In two separate meetings with Jordanian politicians and with the local press, Prince Hassan described the Gaza-Jericho accord as a historic breakthrough for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) but called for an objective assessment of the agreement and its implications.

He dismissed suggestions that Jordan's position was dictated by its apprehension from the independent Palestinian national identity and criticised arguments, both in support or against the accord, that emanate from such fears.

"Any attempt to interpret the concept of Jordanian rejection or promotion of the Jericho-Gaza first (option) on the basis of Jordan's fear of the independence of the Palestinian national identity is a smile attempt to take the Jordanian position out of its context," Prince Hassan said.

The Prince was referring to the

press commentaries and statements that imply that Jordan's acceptance or rejection of the Israeli-Palestinian accord is based on either Jordan's interests in disassociating itself from the Palestinian cause or fear from a forced Israeli transfer of Palestinians to the East Bank.

The Regent argued that Jordan could not harbour such fears since it has contributed to the independence of the Palestinian national identity starting from its acceptance of the 1974 Arab summit resolution that the PLO was the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and finally by declaring its disengagement from the West Bank in 1988.

He stressed, however, that Jordan had taken those historic steps to pave the way for Palestinian sovereignty and not to give Israel the chance to assert its own control or sovereignty over the occupied Arab territories.

The Prince gave a relatively detailed analysis of the accord, including its potential negative implications, but said that Jordan was not judging the Israeli-Palestinian agreement on the

basis of scenarios about the final outcome but according to the agreed-upon provisions.

He said that the accord, as a first step towards Palestinian self-determination, is consistent and an extension of Jordan's policies. But he voiced concern that the accord could lead to an Israeli rearrangement of its colonisation of the occupied territories.

During the two meetings the Prince spelled out a number of reservations regarding many aspects of the accord that could have serious repercussions on Jordan, the Palestinians' national rights and the status of Jerusalem.

Some of the major aspects in the Israeli-Palestinian accord of concern to Jordan, according to the Prince, are the following:

The uncertainty of the final outcome, especially that a new government led by the hardline Likud Party could either undermine the accord or turn what is supposed to be an interim period into a permanent one.

The provisions in the accord, particularly the annexes concerning Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation that define

the

accord

and

the

Middle East News

Hekmatyar wants cabinet and Rabbani to resign

KABUL (AFP) — Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar Wednesday called for President Burhanuddin Rabbani to resign and for cabinet to be disbanded during a reopening ceremony for Kabul university.

"I am asking the president, the prime minister and the cabinet members to resign and for the establishment of a neutral interim government," Mr. Hekmatyar told several hundred guests at the higher learning institution which had been closed for nearly 18 months.

He added that the interim government should be chosen in "a free general election" which would take place in October.

In his preliminary remarks, Mr. Hekmatyar was critical of the present state of affairs in Afghanistan, which he denounced as running counter to Islam.

"Whoever says that there exists an Islamic government in Afghanistan is actually humiliating Islam," he declared. "We are miles from an Islamic government."

The controversial prime minister, who leads the Hezb-e-Islami faction and rose to power as a rival of Mr. Rabbani, said it was not fair that faction leaders should sit in an isolated room and share power between themselves.

His comments were in apparent reference to the failure of Afghan leaders to quit their constant bickering and factional fighting to work out a compromise and achieve a true power sharing arrangement.

Mr. Hekmatyar, himself not immune to such criticism, has been accused by his rivals of U.N.-Islamic behaviour due to his faction's rocketing of Kabul, which cost the lives of thousands of civilians.

Sudan leader rebuts U.S. terrorist charges

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Sudan's hardline military leader denied on Tuesday U.S. charges his government was sponsoring "terrorism" and said reports he was backing fugitive Somali warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed were false.

Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir told a news conference in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, Washington had failed to produce any proof his country had allowed "terrorist" training camps to be set up on its territory.

"We challenge the United States government to come up with a single case of the Sudanese government being involved in a terrorist act, or harbouring terrorists," he said.

Gen. Bashir, who was speaking at the end of a two-day regional summit, also denied he was supporting Somali gunmen linked to Gen. Aideed in an increasingly bloody battle with U.N. forces in Mogadishu.

"We have no common border with Somalia. It is a mere allegation to besmirch the good name of Sudan," he said in answer to a question from a Reuter journalist.

"Even our ships which leave port Sudan with humanitarian supplies for Somalia are being searched," he said.

The United States recently placed the government of Sudan on a blacklist with four other countries it said backed worldwide "terrorism" in one form or another.

Gen. Bashir described his government's relationship with Iran as normal bilateral ties between two sovereign countries and said Sudan was not trying to export Islam.

"The stability of Sudan is dependent on the regional countries, why should Sudan attempt to destabilise them?" he asked. Political analysts say Western

Nor has the fighting among leaders been eased by Mr. Hekmatyar's reluctance to move operations from his Charasab headquarters, 25 kilometres south of Kabul, citing security problems.

Cabinet ministers are obliged to travel from the capital to Charasab to carry out government business — an embarrassing state of affairs for the fledgling Islamic state of Afghanistan.

Abdul Ali Mazari, the leader of the Shiite Muslim faction Hezb-e-Wahdat, which is the military ally of Mr. Hekmatyar, said he "wholeheartedly welcomed brother Hekmatyar's positive proposals" for the resignation of the country's leaders.

"I hope all the leaders will respond to this proposal. This is a good chance for them to show their self-sacrifice, courage and honour," Mr. Mazari told his audience packed into the university auditorium.

Meanwhile, university dean Amir Hasanyar voiced concerns over security for the reopened university.

"Sixty per cent of our students are girls, and their families are not ready to send them here unless they get firm guarantees that they are safe," Mr. Hasanyar said.

As if in response to Mr. Hasanyar's concern, Mr. Mazari told the gathering he would withdraw all his men from the university campus, adding that he had instructed his commanders to behave correctly.

Mr. Hasanyar also called for 10 million dollars in urgent funding to reconstruct various faculty buildings destroyed in clashes between mujahedeen factions who had competed for control of the capital.

The deputy governor of Afghanistan's eastern province of Nangarhar, Shomali Khan, has been assassinated along with six others, Afghan sources here said yesterday.

The seven were gunned down outside the former royal palace in the provincial capital of Jalalabad late Tuesday, an official at a Peshawar-based information centre of the Jalalabad administration said.

Syed Ishaq said the body of Shomali, who belonged to the moderate National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA) led by Sayed Ahmad Gailani, was being brought to Peshawar by road for burial later in the day.

Ishaq and other Afghan sources had no clue as to the motive or identity of the attackers, or whether any arrests had been made in Jalalabad, seat of a multi-party governing shura or council.

Shomali, a well-known commander who played an important role toward a settlement among rival Afghan political factions at Jalalabad in May, was one of the most influential figures in the region.

The Nangarhar Shoura is headed by Governor Haji Abdul Qader, a leader of the Hezb-e-Islami faction of Maulvi Yunus Khales.

"We have heard the report and we are awaiting details," Afghan ambassador in Islamabad, Sardar Roshan, told AFP.

Afghan circles in Pakistan, which shelter some 1.5 million Afghan refugees, feared that the assassination of Shomali could trigger factional tensions in the neighbouring eastern province.

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The two men, Abdul Basset Ali Mohammad Al Mewrabi and Al Ami Khalifa Fhimah, be allowed to surrender voluntarily and that British and U.S. demands for compensation over the bombing be deferred until after the trial," he said. "That means you already consider them guilty."

The other conditions were that the two men, Abdul Basset Ali Mohammad Al Mewrabi and Al Ami Khalifa Fhimah, be allowed to surrender voluntarily and that British and U.S. demands for compensation over the bombing be deferred until after the trial," he said. "That means you already consider them guilty."

STV said the conditions were rejected by Britain's Foreign Office, which was not immediately available to confirm this.

Britain and the United States issued arrest warrants for the two alleged intelligence agents in November 1991, holding them solely responsible for the hidden bomb that killed all 259 people aboard Pan Am Flight 103 from London to New York in December, 1988 and 11 people in the Scottish town of Lockerbie.

The U.N. imposed sanctions on Libya when it refused to hand the men over. Tougher new measures are due to come into force on Oct. 1.

"We call on all members of the National Council, the Central Council and the Executive Committee to step down," Hamas said in a statement distributed in the occupied territories.

Political analysts say Khar-

town, already under pressure to accept U.N. safe havens in conflict zones, fears the U.N. action could set precedent for so-called "humanitarian interventions" elsewhere on the continent.

Sudan to probe case

Sudan's chief justice, Jalal Ali Lutfi, has ordered an investigation into the case of a Sudanese Christian priest reportedly sentenced to be flogged by an Islamic court that convicted him of adultery.

It was a weak autonomous administration over just two per cent of Palestine. Jerusalem and the settlements are left under the control of the Zionist entity."

Israel hopes the historic agreement for a five-year period of autonomy spreading over the rest of the West Bank will be signed in Washington next week.

The government "is very keen in every respect to protect the rights of non-Muslims inside Sudan," he said.

On Tuesday, Bishop Roric denied British press reports that the Anglican priest, Bishop Peter Al Birish, had already been flogged, receiving 80 lashes in public in Khartoum on July 12.

Jordan Times Tel.: 667171

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Fine weather conditions will prevail with clouds appearing at low altitudes. Winds will be mostly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be north-westerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/max temp.

Amman 15/27
Aqaba 22/35
Deserts 14/31
Jordan Valley 21/34

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27.6, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 26 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieq, Tel. 810740

Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632545

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Tennessus Church Tel. 622366

EMERGENCIES

CIVIL DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

IMMEDIATE

RESCUE

CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY

RESCUE POLICE

DE. SA'ID ALI

TRAFFIC POLICE

FIREFIGHTERS

FOODSTUFFS

PHARMACEUTICALS

PHARMACEUTICALS

COMPLAINTS

AMMAN MUNICIPALITY

COMPLAINTS

TELEPHONE INFORMATION

OVERSEAS CALLS

CENTRAL ARABIAN TELEPHONE

REPORTS

DR. MOHAMMED AL ZUBI

AI QUDS PHARMACY

ZARQA

DR. FARAH HAMDAH

KAHLIFAH PHARMACY



ANTI-PEACE CAMP: An anti-peace right-wing demonstrator dressed like a hooded Palestinian, Tuesday staged by thousands of people, outside Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office (AFP photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran rejects Arab statement on Islands row

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, rejecting a statement by Gulf Arab foreign ministers backing the United Arab Emirates' claim to three gulf islands, said on Tuesday they are Iranian and will remain Iranian. A Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted by Iranian Television branded the UAE's claim to Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tantur islands served foreign powers and hurt the interests of the Muslim people of the region. "These islands are Iranian and will remain Iranian. The Islamic Republic of Iran ... will not allow any country to let political games overshadow the region's stability and collective security," he said. Foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE — said after a meeting in Riyadh on Monday that they backed UAE's efforts to assert its right on the islands by peaceful means and hoped the problem could be resolved through dialogue. There were reports in the Gulf that the UAE minister of states for foreign affairs, Sheikh Hamdan Ben Zayed Al Nahyan, was expected to go to Tehran in September to discuss the issue. Iran says it reasserted its rights to the islands close to major oil shipping routes in 1971 after British forces withdrew from the region, taking control of the Tantur and making a deal with UAE member Sharjah to jointly run Abu Musa.

Five Norwegian U.N. troops sent home from Lebanon

OSLO (AFP) — Five Norwegian soldiers serving with the U.N. peacekeepers in Lebanon have been sent back to Norway for having hired out weapons illegally, a spokesman for the Norwegian defence high command said Tuesday. The five, who included an officer cadet, had their contracts for service with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) cancelled. Their names were not revealed. The cadet was put under close arrest for 20 days while the other four received 12 days of close arrest with fines of 2,500 Norwegian kroner (about \$350), the spokesman said. The soldiers were said to have hired out handguns to a local businessman who belonged to an armed group supporting Israel. They also bought ammunition for the weapons. The spokesman gave no further details about the businessman. The Norwegian military authorities began an investigation and searched the soldiers' barracks last Thursday to see whether other UNIFIL soldiers were involved in the affair, the spokesman said.

Kurdish drug smugglers jailed

LONDON (AFP) — A 47-year-old Iraqi Kurd drug smuggler was jailed here for 15 years for importing £1.5 million (\$3 million) worth of heroin into Britain. Judge Anura Cooray recommended that Farook Tonik Mohammad be deported because his "international links with the drug smuggling world" meant that his continued presence in Britain was "potential detriment" to the country. Mr. Mohammad's two accomplices, 36-year-old Iranian Karrar Rassoul Sarhangi, of Uppsala, Sweden, and 39-year-old Kamran Sadeq, an Iraqi Kurd, of Stockholm, Sweden, who were also recommended for deportation, were each jailed for 12 years. The three defendants were found guilty after a trial last June of importing 12,990 kilos of heroin with a street value of £1.5 million from Istanbul to London on April 12, 1992. The three defendants smuggled the drug into Britain in the petrol tank of a Toyota car driven to London by a fourth defendant, Amil Barui, 33, of Stockholm, Sweden, who was acquitted by the jury. Customs officer Philip Searle, who led the investigation, said the capture and jailing of Mr. Mohammad — a former employee of the Saudi Arabian King's cousin, Prince Ghaliel Al-Saud — was a significant blow to the international drug smuggling fraternity. Mr. Searle said the Middle East was now the biggest supplier of Britain's £50 million (\$75 million) a-year heroin trade.

Iran to set up camps in Azerbaijan

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said it signed an agreement with Azerbaijan on Tuesday to set up camps in Azeri territory for GULF refugees fleeing Armenian attacks. The deal was signed in Baku after talks held by a delegation from the Iranian interior ministry, Iran's official news agency IRNA said. The first camp with a capacity of 10,000 would be set up soon and 40 scenes of food would initially be sent to the Imishi area, 12 kilometers inside Azerbaijan, it added. The camps would help relieve Iran's worst about a large refugee influx as a result of Armenian attacks. Azerbaijan's refugee spokesman said Sadako Ogata, head of the UNHCR, had recommended that Iran set up camps in Azerbaijan to help the refugees. "We have contingency plans on the I... time being people are reaching safety," said IRNA. "We are sending 28 Azeris to Iran on Saturday, the only refugee arrivals reported so far in the current Armenian campaign. Iran on Monday told Armenia again to pull its forces out of Azerbaijan and said it would not remain silent towards aggression close to its borders. Armenia denies its troops are helping Azerbaijan's Armenian minority in the conflict, which has spread from a disputed enclave to areas populated by Azeris.

PKK man was 'treated like crime boss'

ROME (R) — A Kurdish guerrilla representative said Tuesday he was treated like a mafia boss in a Rome jail and demanded an explanation for his arrest from the Italian government. Ali Sapan, 29, a spokesman in Europe for the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), was released from jail Monday after judges decided the offences of which he was accused had lapsed under Italian law. "I was treated like a mafia boss," Mr. Sapan told a news conference. "One military expert said that the chemicals had not been found during the Damman inspection pointed to a possible 'manipulation of' or error by the American Secret Service." "The Chinese secret services may have mounted this 'scam' operation to show the rest of the world that China is the victim of unjust persecution by Washington," the military expert said. "One of the most bizarre hypotheses put forward has been that the precursors were found in the Damman search, but that Washington chose to remain silent for reasons of its own."

Rome was detained on Thursday after leaving Rome's foreign press club where he had given a news conference on his efforts to negotiate the release of two Italian tourists in the hands of Kurdish separatists. "The Italian government must admit it made an error," Mr. Sapan said. "I want a believable justification for why I was jailed." Turkish authorities say they want Mr. Sapan extradited on charges of subversion. Political refugee status in France, would be extradited. The PKK has kidnapped 16 foreigners in Turkey in the last two months.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:30 ... Colombo (RJ)
12:45 ... Laraca (RJ)
13:15 ... New York ... (CAY)
13:30 (RJ)
13:45 (RJ)
13:50 (RJ)
13:55 (RJ)
14:30 (RJ)
15:30 (RJ)
15:45 (RJ)
16:00 (RJ)
16:15 (RJ)
16:30 (RJ)
16:45 (RJ)
17:45 (RJ)
21:15 (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

01:00 ...

CC centres to accept payment of service bills

AMMAN (Petra) — Soon, all centres operated by the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) and the Ministry of Communications and Postal Affairs will be powered to receive payment of telephone and water bills from subscribers, according to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali. The measure will facilitate payment procedures for the public and speed up the collection of public bills, said the prime minister during a visit to the Ministry of Communications and Postal Affairs Wednesday.

Maps designating the locations of these centres and post offices will be distributed to the public via stores and other private sector businesses, added Dr. Majali at a meeting attended by minister Tareq Suheimat, TCC director General Ahmad Nawa-

wi and ministry Secretary General Abdulla Al Jazi.

The TCC director briefed the meeting on TCC projects and services, including the new networks being installed in Ma'an, Mafrag, Amman, Sweileh, Marwa, Wadi Sir and other areas.

Mr. Nawaifi also spoke about the Amman-Damascus telephone cable which is to be linked to the Syria-Cyprus and Greece-France submarine cable.

Another network, he said, is being installed linking Amman with Aqaba, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Referring to telephone network in the Kingdom, Mr. Nawaifi said it is due to be completed between 1993 and 1997 and will provide nearly 250,000 new telephone lines.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday meets with Minister of Communications and Postal Affairs Tareq Suheimat and other ministry officials (Petra photo)

Jubilee School head explains student selection process

AMMAN (J.T.) — A press conference was held at the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) to explain the selection process of students at NHF's Jubilee School.

Jubilee School Director Fathi Jarwan said the 1993-1994 academic year marks the inaugural scholastic year of the Jubilee School and the first orientation session for the 89 accepted students and their parents will be held Saturday.

Dr. Jarwan explained that a multiple criteria student selection process was undertaken by

the school. This multiple criteria consisted of: the student's school grades over the last five semesters, ratings of salient characteristics of superior students, the Raven's Progressive Advanced Matrices (IQ test), essay writing, and structured interviews with prospective students.

Testing was administered by the Jubilee School in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the University of Jordan in May and July 1993.

The Raven's Progressive Advanced Matrices Test was the standardized test used as it is one of the most renowned and widely used for testing nonverbal group/individual intelligence.

Written essays of applicants were also examined as an indication of their creativity and self-expression.

The 258 applicants with the highest scores were interviewed and a final selection was made. Eighty-nine applicants were selected to join the

school.

According to an NHF student Wednesday, 1,021 applications were submitted to the school. 789 students were nominated by schools in the Greater-Amman area including the Amman First Directorate (266), Amman's Second Directorate (216), the Suburbs Directorate (63), the Private Education Directorate (58), The UNRWA Department of Education (187). The statement added that 176 applicants were nominated independently

by their parents.

The Jubilee School Project has been a personal commitment of Her Majesty Queen Noor since she was entrusted with it in 1985.

The school's mission is to offer students with outstanding academic records a unique learning experience based on their needs, interests, capabilities and past experiences.

It will provide a four-year co-educational programme, with an ultimate enrollment of 400 students.

Jordan could use more than 300 occupational therapists — foundation director

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan potentially needs more than 300 occupational therapists, but awareness about this relatively new type of therapy is minimal, said Samira Baban, the director of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation.

"Once awareness is increased about occupational therapy, which is often mistaken for physical therapy, different hospitals and clinics will find they need to employ occupational therapists," Dr. Baban said. "Jordan has the potential to absorb some 350 occupational therapists," she said, adding that occupational therapy is involved with an entirely different aspect of medical care.

Occupational therapists (OTs) are rehabilitation specialists working towards the improvement of the quality of life of those individuals who are temporarily or permanently suffering from the consequences of physical or mental illness, or social development problems.

"Occupational therapy's primary objective is to increase the functional independence of individuals who suffered mental or physical disabilities so that these people can live as normal a life as possible with the abilities they still have," said lecturer and occupational therapist Gada Saleh.

Ms. Saleh said that although they differ, occupational therapists work in coordination with physical therapists to meet a common goal of improved quality of life.

She said that physical therapists treat patients who may suffer from decreased muscle strength. In such cases the physical therapist works with the patient or exercises to increase that strength.

An occupational therapist's job begins when that strength is built up.

"Now that the patient has more strength in the arms he/she may still not be able to do things such as dress or feed him or herself or be able to do perform other functions. As an occupational therapist we give these people methods and means to be able to do these things using the simplest and most inexpensive means and

product. Instead of buttons on clothes for instance, we give our patients simple alternatives like velcro for fastening clothes. If they cannot hold a glass we make special handles on the glass so that a patient can balance it on his or her hand and drink," Ms. Saleh said.

She added that no patient is beyond help. "Even if we cannot improve the patient's functional status, the least we can do, which may be the most we can do, for some patients, is increase the quality of their lives by occupying their time and their minds even if they have no muscle movement. This is why an occupational therapist must be creative," she said.

In this type of therapy the emphasis is on any activity in which a patient is doing something purposeful and adding to his or her life in some way, whether it is in the social sense or improving self-esteem or psychological motivation and status.

Dr. Baban drew attention to one major problem faced by occupational therapists. "It's almost a Catch-22 situation. Those who have the awareness and know they have the need for occupational therapists often do not have the financial means to employ them, and that often includes charitable organisations," Dr. Baban said.

She explained that 12 therapists who will graduate from the Occupational Therapy College at the Farah Centre of the King Hussein Medical Centre will be unemployed along with three others from last year's class who have not yet been absorbed in the workforce.

"I call on the minister of health to appoint those graduates from our college who are not employed by the military (the military appoints six graduates each year) so that they can enrich the rehabilitation services of the ministry and psychiatric centres. I also call on the minister to delegate those not employed to the various charitable societies," Dr. Baban urged.

Under the patronage of Her Highness Princess Majda Ra'd the Occupational Therapy College set up a two-day workshop and exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) Wednesday, so that those interested could learn more about this field.

Cabinet approves PSD senior staff changes

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Wednesday rejected Brigadier Ibrahim Harb, deputy Public Security Department director for Judicial Affairs and Brigadier Izzeddin Zaza, commander of the Police College. The retirements are effective September 10, 1993. PSD Director Major General Abdul Rahman Al Udwani Wednesday announced the following post changes of PSD senior officers effective Friday. Brig. Ahmad Khasawneh, head of the Residency and Border Department will become PSD inspector general. Brig. Mahmud Abu Hammour will become assistant director for Judicial Affairs. Brig. Ziyad Na'jawi will become director of the Residency and Border Department. Colonel Mohammad Saleh will become commander of the Police College at Mutu University. Colonel Fayed Shreideh will become acting director of the PSD's Training Department and Lieutenant General Jamal Momani will become head of the PSD administrative offices.

Meanwhile, the PSD Wednesday announced that 2,922 crimes occurred in Jordan during July, up from 2,649 crimes in the same month last year.

The majority of those perpetrating these crimes, particularly robberies and thefts, were aged 18 to 27, said a PSD statement.

It said the thefts and robberies were committed by 609 persons, including 41 who were of other Arab nationalities.

Festive firing incidents resulted in the death of four persons and 43 injuries in July.

Typhoid cases rise to 15

Health Ministry begins computerisation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The number of positively diagnosed typhoid cases in the Ajloun district has risen to 15, up from 10 on Monday, and the total number of suspected typhoid cases reached 127. Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas said Wednesday.

Speaking during a visit to Al Eman Hospital in Ajloun, Dr. Malhas said that most of the patients have been discharged and 20 remain under treatment at the hospital.

There were no deaths caused by the high fevers suffered from citizens in the Ajloun area and health teams are working to identify the source of the illness, said the minister.

On Monday, Dr. Malhas told the Jordan Times that all the High fever cases admitted to Al Eman Hospital were treated as typhoid cases on purely clinical grounds, although culture tests proved that most of the patients were not suffering from typhoid.

He also said that health teams were testing samples of food and beverages as well as water to determine the source of the disease.

Ministry starts computerisation

The Ministry of Health has

begun to computerise its operations to improve information management and the delivery of health care services in the country, according to a ministry statement Wednesday.

The first phase of the computerisation programme began Wednesday with the donation of five computers and printers by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), said the statement.

The computers and printers were presented to Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas, by William T. Oliver, director of USAID in Jordan. The equipment was bought under the USAID-funded Primary Health Care Nursing Project and will be used to improve the Planning and Nursing Directorates in the ministry.

According to Dr. Malhas, the first priority of the ministry is to improve the delivery of health care services and to reduce waste and thus costs for these services.

"This is not possible if accurate and reliable information on essential and life-saving drugs and equipment and the quality of services is not readily available," said Dr. Malhas.

Excellent computer software

National health insurance could cost JD 24-123m

AMMAN (Petra) — Between JD 24 million and JD 123 million are needed by the Social Security Corporation (SSC) in order to implement a health insurance plan for workers and their families, said SSC Director Mohammad Saleh Al Hourani Wednesday.

But according to Fawzi Sahawneh, head of the university team which prepared the study, such a plan could be implemented through three different options.

The first is the paying of the JD 60 million annually from employee salary deduction for a family plan for medical and other related services.

The second option entails the construction of 6 hospitals, with a combined 1,200 bed capacity in the north, central and southern parts of the Kingdom, together with opening nine specialised clinics and 18 health centres. This project requires JD 78 million.

It was decided that a series of similar meetings would be required to reach a final decision on the subject since the government, the employees and the employers will all be involved in the implementation of the scheme.

Finance minister calls for reduced Amman budget

AMMAN (Petra) — Finance Minister Sami Gammoudi Wednesday said projects planned for the Amman area next year are too ambitious, and allocations made for them far exceed the governorate's means.

He said a preliminary budget prepared by the Amman Governorate's Executive and Consultative Councils has suggested that JD 80 million be spent on these projects, but a

more realistic figure should not exceed JD 55 million, up from JD 45 million for operational costs each year, added Mr. Sahawneh.

He said the third option, which costs JD 24 million, entails the creation of clinics and laboratories and buying medical services from the existing Jordanian hospitals.

A dialogue which followed raised several ideas, but all attending agreed that any health scheme can only be applied in stages. Therefore, at first only employees can be included in the plan; a family plan, they concurred, could follow gradually.

It was decided that a series of similar meetings would be required to reach a final decision on the subject since the government, the employees and the employers will all be involved in the implementation of the scheme.

The finance minister said the allocations should be made only for projects still being implemented or those which the government has already committed itself to, with the remainder of allocations to be spent on high priority schemes.

Mr. Gammoudi suggested that the two-councils re-examine their projects and define their priorities within a JD 55 million budget.

Japan, Jordan to organise system engineering course

AMMAN (Petra) — The governments of Japan and Jordan will cooperate in organising training courses in system engineering at the Computer Technology, Training and Industrial Studies Centre at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

It said that JICA and HCST share the view that the course will contribute to the development of system engineering in the Middle East.

Agreement on this project was concluded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) following a series of meetings held in Amman.

The Japanese team conducted

surveys, held a series of meetings and exchanged opinions with the concerned authorities regarding training courses, said an RSS statement Wednesday.

Noting that the first of the courses will be held from January to May 1994, the statement said, the courses will be held annually for four years.

Under the initial agreement, Japan will send experts who will give advice and deliver lectures on a short-term basis. Japan will also bear expenses for the first course for participants from different countries, including air fare, accommodations, per diems and medical insurance.

ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that the Intensive Course in Modern Standard Arabic for Speakers of Other Languages will commence on September 18, and will last for 16 weeks. The programme is intensive and classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday, Wednesday.

Those interested please call at the Language Centre for registration during the week prior to the beginning of the course.



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Opinion & Analysis

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Ambitious but correct

THE GENEVA conference on humanitarian law ended with a string of decisions topped by a recommendation for the creation of an international tribunal to try war criminals as the most effective way to ensure the full observance of the Geneva conventions and their two protocols. In its own right, the proposal to establish a world court with jurisdiction over grave humanitarian law violations is a correct and timely step even though it appears to be an ambitious project for the moment.

To draw only on the precedent set by the Nuremberg trials that took place in the aftermath of World War II to try war criminals would not be sufficient since that whole exercise was predicated on the proposition that the allied countries, the victors, would try the perpetrators of crimes against humanity committed by nationals of Nazi Germany that lost the war. Had there been no losers or winners in the wake of that war, there could not have been any trials of any war criminals no matter how serious they were.

This is essentially a catch-22 situation: How to apprehend and prosecute war criminals of a nation that won a war. The biggest challenge facing the proponents of the idea to create an international body for the purpose of bringing to justice persons who commit crimes under the Geneva conventions and their protocols is to have equal jurisdiction over winners and losers in any armed conflict, something that the international comity of nations has not been able to do till this point in time. That is why the United Nations would not succeed in bringing to justice war criminals in the Yugoslav conflict since most of the culprits belong to the winning side. Likewise big and powerful countries would never come out within the purview of the jurisdiction of any such world tribunal as envisaged by the conferees at the Geneva meeting.

This is essentially the same drawback in the human rights endeavours where accountability is never effective except against small and weak countries. Even then, the measures taken against states that systematically violate international human rights norms are seldom potent enough. Selectivity and double standards that still plague international efforts to promote human rights worldwide also haunt the attempts to enforce humanitarian law principles as codified in the current international law.

Until utopia is attained in both of these endeavours, the international community would have to be content with less than perfect solutions. The establishment of an international criminal body on humanitarian law violators would still help to create a positive international environment for respecting existing humanitarian law norms even though its arms would not reach all violators on an equal footing. We hope the time will come when the international order would be able to erase all double standards and selectivity in human rights and humanitarian law pursuits. Till then the world will have to do its best with what means it has available to it for now.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily said Wednesday that there was no alternative to the deployment of U.N. peacekeeping forces to ensure peace and stability in Palestine during the autonomy rule. Mahmoud Rimawi said the Palestinians have reported that their agreement with Israel provided for such a deployment but the Israeli foreign minister continues to deny it, claiming that the two sides are in agreement on plans regarding security. If Israel is to maintain its forces in the Palestinian lands during the autonomy rule, clashes between these forces and the Palestinians are bound to continue, said the writer. It is enough for Israel to maintain security in and around the Jewish settlements as the deal with the Palestinians stipulates leaving the question of overall security to the U.N. peace-keeping forces, said the writer. He said that the U.N. Security Council members have shown interest in the Israeli-Palestinian deal and therefore it is their duty to make arrangements to ensure its success through the presence of a strong peace-keeping force until a final settlement has been reached paving the ground for the creation of a Palestinian state. The U.N. peacekeeping forces are indeed essential at this stage to maintain stability and security, continued the writer. He expressed hope that the Security Council would back the deal with actions by dispatching urgently-needed peacekeepers to the area.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour warned the Arabs of a possible Israeli economic invasion of their countries in the coming years, noting that the step by step withdrawal from occupied Arab lands is helping it achieve that goal. Mohammad Kawash said that the Israelis are now contemplating gradual withdrawal, starting with the Majdal Shams first option in the Syrian Golan area, and could follow that by a Jizziz or Marjeyoun first option in southern Lebanon, but they have already prepared the plans and the maps for their economic expansion to take the place of the military expansion in the Arab World. The writer said that while the Israelis are preparing themselves for invading the Arab countries economically, Arab capitals are still hesitant about the manner of dealing with the situation and unable to confront the Israeli objectives with a joint stand and a concerted plan. Israel is seeking investments in tourism, industry and other fields and has its eyes on Arab water resources to help it achieve their goal, he added. The Arab, said the writer, are still confused and their so-called coordination efforts are failing; they have no ready plans to confront Israeli expansion plans. He urged the Arab leaders to rise to the level of responsibility towards their people and take immediate and concerted steps to prevent Israel's economic invasion of the Arab World.

By Dr. James Zogby

Following is the third of four articles by the writer, president of the Arab American Institute in Washington, examining the Israeli lobby AIPAC's sources of power and the roots of its current internal and political problems. The author contributed the article to the Jordan Times.

In the past two years, AIPAC has been buffeted by a number of exposes and negative press reports. All these came on the heels of the organisation's first legislative defeat since the AWACS vote in 1981. President George Bush's initial victory in denying unconditional loan guarantees to Israel was a disturbing loss for the lobby. It had been humiliated. Its myth of invincibility was shattered by the incident, since the loss showed that the lobby was vulnerable to defeat.

During the 15 years of Likud rule in Israel, AIPAC had become wedded to that government's political line. Throughout the entire period leading up to President Bush's decision to deny the loan guarantees to Israel, Mr. Shamir was convinced that his American supporters would teach Mr. Bush a lesson and win congressional passage of the loan guarantees. After its repeated victories in Congress, Israel's government felt that whenever it had problems with an administration, it merely had to turn to the lobby, which would move the Congress to intimidate the president and his State Department. That strategy had worked numerous times in the past.

But in this instance, Mr. Bush was convinced that if the unconditional loan guarantees were to go through, chances for a comprehensive Middle East peace would diminish. Therefore, he was determined to resist congressional pressure and do some behaviour modification of his own on the Israeli government.

Mr. Bush's now famous press conference remarks about being "one lonely guy" resisting the pressure of "one thousand lobbyists" are interesting for a number of reasons. First, he showed that presidential leadership could win and force Congress and the lobby to back down. Second, Mr. Bush showed that public opinion was clearly not with Israel's request for more financial benefits from the U.S. (In fact, a poll the Arab American Institute provided the White House days before the president's press conference showed overwhelming public opposition to Israel's loan guarantee request).

The one benefit for AIPAC was to come out of this setback was the perception in the Jewish community that Mr. Bush was insulting the lobby and questioning the loyalty of Jews who actively supported Israel. AIPAC, which as we shall see has recently had a rocky relationship with other mainstream Jewish organisations, was momentarily strengthened by Jewish supporters rushing to its defence.

In the end, Mr. Bush won and Mr. Shamir lost, and AIPAC emerged from this fight somewhat wounded in the eyes of the larger public. But, at the same time, the lobby was somewhat strengthened within the Jewish community. And AIPAC was resolved to punish the President who had beaten it.

In an ominous speech before

AIPAC's policy conference on April 5, 1992, Tom Dine, then AIPAC's executive director, said:

"...We are not going away. We are here. And we will not be intimidated. We shall continue to nudge the stone up the hill inch by inch — until we get to the top. The campaign to win support for the guarantees may take several rounds before we succeed. Let us remember that the landmark Jackson-Vanik legislation to free Soviet Jewry did not succeed on the first effort in September 1972. The Nixon administration adamantly opposed the legislation as a threat to detente and, by extension, to world peace. It took two and one half years of debate, plus Nixon's resignation, before the Jackson-Vanik amendment was adopted in December 1974.

...We are very tenacious people when an issue of principle is concerned. On the issue before us today, we are right and the administration is wrong."

Whether or not Mr. Dine intended his speech as a threat to Mr. Bush, the message was clear. AIPAC would oppose George Bush and even seek to bring him down. The die was cast. Mr. Bush ended up losing the election, but AIPAC emerged wounded as well.

Shortly after winning his election in Israel in June of 1992, the new prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, let it be known that he did not care for the way the so-called pro-Israel groups behaved during the loan guarantees debate. In Mr. Rabin's eyes, they had arrogated to themselves the power to negotiate with the administration

what AIPAC viewed as "victory" over George Bush in the November 1992 election. The organisation was rocked by yet another scandalous revelation. (In fact, the Clinton victory was not due to the work of AIPAC. It was due to a number of factors including the continuing decline in the nation's economy, the frustration of many groups with Republican economics, the coalition of a number of liberal groups whose causes the Democrats supported and the disruptive presence in the campaign of Ross Perot. But, as in the case of the Perot campaign in 1984, AIPAC was quick in claiming victory for itself.)

"The debates and divisions that run through Israeli society have also emerged in the American Jewish community. They have long been hidden from public view, as the community and its organisation maintained a facade of internal cohesion and complex acceptance of whatever the Israeli government position."

on behalf of Israel. And that, he noted, would no longer be tolerated.

Furthermore, Labour Party officials let it be known that they did not care for the way the lobby had sided with the Likud during this debate. In a number of public rebukes Mr. Rabin chided AIPAC for its position. And this left the organisation wounded in the eyes of many in the Jewish community and the press. Mr. Bush's attack had had the short-term effect of winning Jewish support for the lobby — Mr. Rabin's attacks ended that.

Still reeling from this embarrassment, AIPAC received a number of additional shocks in the following months as several major newspapers carried exposés detailing how AIPAC's "research department" spied on and defamed its enemies. The articles featured reports on how AIPAC had carried out campaigns against African-Americans, Arab-Americans, politicians and, most significantly, even prominent American Jews who had run afoul of the lobby because of their suspected "pro-peace" positions.

The case that first prompted the exposés involved the removal of the editor of the influential Washington Jewish Week (the paper of this city's Jewish community). As the story unfolded, it was established that the editor

had been fired for being a

publicly renounced terrorism and recognised Israel's right to exist. It barely lasted 18 months.

When a PLO faction flagrantly violated Mr. Arafat's promise by launching an abortive attack on a Tel Aviv beach, the dialogue was stopped.

And not a minute too soon for Israel, which had from the start insisted that the PLO — Mr. Arafat's pledges notwithstanding — had not for a moment stopped its terrorism.

When President Bush began efforts to bring Israel and the Arabs to the negotiating table, Israel again insisted that the PLO be excluded.

And so it was. Secretary of State James Baker, in a move worthy of master contortionists, worked out a formula that kept the PLO out — at least on paper.

But as the negotiations went on, it became clear that the absence of the PLO was a charade. Invariably, the Palestinian delegation would stop off in Tunis on its way to or from Washington to consult with PLO headquarters on strategy and tactics of negotiations with Israel.

And even though the Clinton administration still doesn't recognise the PLO, it's not like the United States didn't try in the past. In the twilight of the Reagan presidency, then-Secretary of State George Shultz railed at Congress to launch a dialogue with the PLO — but only after Yasser Arafat

The fig leaf started wearing

and an important writer for the paper had come under AIPAC scrutiny because the editor had made "dove-like" comments at a picnic sponsored by a pro-Israel peace group, and the writer had written stories that were unsympathetic to AIPAC's positions.

The lobby, it appeared, had launched a campaign utilising prominent Jewish leaders to pressure the paper to replace the editor and remove the writer.

While AIPAC won and the editor was forced to resign, the stories that appeared in the aftermath proved quite embarrassing to the lobby. The organisation was described as McCarthy-like (a reference to the famous U.S. Senator who in the 1950s launched a "witch-hunt" to ferret out "communists" in the U.S. government). As the story developed it became clear that, like McCarthy, AIPAC's "enemies lists" were very long indeed.

A few months later, fresh from what AIPAC viewed as "victory" over George Bush in the November 1992 election, the organisation was rocked by yet another scandalous revelation. (In fact, the Clinton victory was not due to the work of AIPAC. It was due to a number of factors including the continuing decline in the nation's economy, the frustration of many groups with Republican economics, the coalition of a number of liberal groups whose causes the Democrats supported and the disruptive presence in the campaign of Ross Perot. But, as in the case of the Perot campaign in 1984, AIPAC was quick in claiming victory for itself.)

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By Anne Senior
Reuter

LONDON — Grunge, punk, scuzz, dweeb, quark, yuppie, AIDS, glasnost, political correctness, female condom, floppy disc.

All these terms testify to 20 years of linguistic and social history recorded in a new edition of the Oxford English Dictionary — the bible of the serious student and general guide to the language.

A revised new shorter Oxford English Dictionary replacing the old 1973 edition is about to roll off the presses with a host of words unknown in the era of the Beatles and moon-landings, when computers were often bulky machines and a mouse was still just a rodent.

Publisher Oxford University Press bills its work as "the fullest general dictionary of contemporary English" and "the dictionary publishing event of the decade" after 13 years of research and a \$3 million pound (\$4.5 million) investment.

But this is no pocket reference book for the poor spelunker, coming in two fat volumes containing 7.5 million words of text and costing £60 (\$90) for the basic set and £70 (\$110) for one with a thumb index.

Around 10,000 copies of the dictionary are sold a year. First published in 1933 and revised every 20 years, the book has acted as a catalogue of new words entering the language and the changing meanings of older expressions.

American street slang, the vocabulary of the disease AIDS, and political fashions like free-market Thatcherism and Reaganomics all make a first appearance among the

500,000 entries in the modern lexicon launched on Sept. 7.

"I think that you would find that in the 70s edition there was a very narrow range of words that were new to the post-war world. The bulk of the dictionary reflected a taking-stock of language before the middle of the century," said lexicographer Edmund Weiner who worked on the dictionary team.

Traditionalists who regard Oxford English as a standard of gentility may be shocked to find a wide selection of derogatory terms — dweeb (boringly conventional, puny or studious person), scuzz (unpleasant person), gonzo (crazy person), plonker (foolish or inept person) and many more.

"There may be some criticism but this reveals an unawareness that all current dictionaries include a wide range of slang," said Mr. Weiner in an interview. "If you describe language in its current form you have to describe all of it, not decide what is good English and bad English."

Surprisingly, Maastricht does not appear in the dictionary although the much-publicised policy of subsidiarity, the idea of devolving power from EC bureaucrats in Brussels to local level wherever possible, does find a place.

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tion of the word, offering a first prize of a trip to Maastricht, the Dutch town where the European Community (EC) drew up its blueprint for closer union.

Punk rock and grunge (a musical style characterised by a raucous guitar sound and a lazy delivery) are noted as well the phenomena of masculinism, a male response to feminism meaning advocacy of men's rights, and political correctness, conformity to a body of liberal or radical opinion.

The growth of world markets in the boom 1980s brought big bang, meaning financial deregulation as well as the violent explosion of matter in space, and meltdown to mean a steep drop in value. It was the age of the yuppie (young urban professional) sporting the filofax (personal organiser).

Readers' suggestions for Majorism include: "Morbid love of indecision and false promises", "a form of gentile prevarication in politics" and "a nervous disease causing the sufferer to imagine themselves a world statesman whilst everyone else considers them a standing joke".

Real dictionary entries re-

New dictionary records the era of grunge, quarks and AIDS

By Anne Senior
Reuter

design house agreed. "You have to work hard, but most importantly you have to be talented," said Marilena Digiulio, a seamstress for 24 years who works with designer Raniero Gattinoni.

Another seamstress working for Gattinoni also said talent was paramount.

"Here you start from zero," she said as she cut fabric for the lining of a wedding gown. "You learn how to hold a needle and thread and make simple stitches, then we see if the talent shows through."

Workshops are divided among those who are best at working with heavy cloth, known as "pesantissime", and those who are more talented with lighter fabric, known as "leggerissime".

Others are specialists at cutting fabric, still others at embroidery.

Because they are proud of their work, many feel the dresses and outfits they make are undersold, even if the price range of an haute couture dress is between \$10,000 and \$200,000 — depending on the fabrics and the design.

"These dresses are always a bargain," Digiulio said, "no figure could possibly equal the work and the time that goes into making them."

Industries experts say designers are often forced to choose between selling their clothing below cost or not selling at all to the world's 3,000 haute couture customers.

Despite the long hours and the frustration, artisans say they could not imagine doing any other job.

"Every since I was young and I heard my mother's scissors cutting fabric, I knew I had to do this job," said 25-year-old Franca Testa, who works for Sarli.

"My teachers tried to discourage me — they wanted me to go to college — but I wanted this."

Women like Testa are becoming rare. Today, many potential artisans are entering the ready-to-wear field because it is more profitable.

Others, according to Rome's Artisans' Union, would rather start their own businesses than work for the big designers.

Digiulio said traditional haute couture artisans were disappearing.

"There are other jobs that pay more and require less work," she said. "You do this job for love."

Judging IQ by appearance is not very smart — study

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

TORONTO — Just how intelligent do you look?

You get smart points if you're attractive, wear a friendly, self-assured expression beneath stylish hair and sport a well-proportioned body, a new study suggests.

You get demerits if you look unrefined, dress unfashionably or informally and have a round face or a stout body.

None of that, however, reveals much about how intelligent a person really is, at least as measured by standard tests, the study found.

But even a brief listen to

the way you talk — apart from what you say — may give strangers a better indicator of brainpower, reports psychology professor of Peter Borkenau of the University of Bielefeld in Germany.

Prof. Borkenau described his research Sunday at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association. Although the work was done in Germany, he said he believed the results would be similar in the United States.

Researchers have largely overlooked the question of how people perceive intelligence in others, said Delroy Paulhus of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. But now that psycho-

logists are moving away from using IQ as the sole indicator of intelligence, a closer look at what people consider signs of intelligence may give some clues for other measures, he said.

In Prof. Borkenau's study, 18 college students were asked to look at videotapes of 100 male and female strangers who, one by one, walked into a room, sat down, read a weather forecast aloud, then got up and left.

After each 90-second scene, the students were asked either to judge how intelligent each stranger was or rate the person on 48 characteristics that might be used to judge intelligence.

Students who had

watched the silent tape did not do significantly better than random guessing in judging intelligence. Analysis showed that 16 of the 18 physical cues they apparently relied on were not related to

actual intelligence, with the exceptions being a self-assured expression and an avoidance of stiff walking.

Students who could hear the strangers, however, assessed verbal intelligence moderately well "and considerably better than chance," Prof. Borkenau said in an interview. Verbal intelligence deals with language.

Helpful cues included the ease with which the strangers were understood and the lack of an unpleasant voice or halting or hectic speech. The sound clues did not give the listener any hint as to the strangers' non-verbal intelligence.

Students who had

seen a separate presentation, psychologist Robert Hogan of the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma said he believes in intelligence "exists in the eye of the beholder," and that it is perceived differently in different kinds of occupations.

His work found that diesel mechanics consider their colleagues to be intelligent if they can solve technical problems by themselves and serve as a consultant to others on technical problems.

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A pack of ten?

By Jean-Claude Elias

The dramatic decrease of personal computer (PC) prices in the last few years has been a blessing for all the private users who could only dream of possessing such a machine in the past. We are all aware of that and certainly see it as a good thing. An American specialist once interestingly noted that if the prices of cars had gone down proportionally to PC's during the past twenty years, a Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow would now cost about \$5.

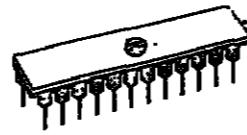
Computers were previously (when they were still relatively expensive) considered as an investment. They have now been reduced to the lower status of standard consumer products and follow a very steep curve of obsolescence. A middle-of-the-road 386 PC is cheaper than a sophisticated stereo system, video camera or high definition TV set. Even worse. One can reasonably expect to keep and enjoy using a new stereo without finding it too outdated after ten years, but a ten years old PC would look like a "dinosaur", a word often used to describe a very old computer.

People who buy a PC and are not aware of the market trends are shocked when they find that they can hardly resell their computer for half of its purchase value, only six months later. Trying to get some money from a PC after two years of usage is virtually impossible. Such severe devaluation is not typical to the regular, above mentioned consumer products. The fact that there is an important innovation in the computer field — whether in hardware or software, an average of two times a year — is the main reason behind the critical situation in PC prices. Whenever a new feature is introduced, previous models' prices automatically go down.

This summer has seen an exception to the rule. The Sumitomo plant in Japan, which used to supply 60 per cent of the world's resin for the chips (ICs — integrated circuits) manufacturing was completely destroyed by a fire. As was expected, the cost of ICs went up as much as 100 per cent immediately after. Some saw this as a reversal of the trend, but it was only an accident in the curve and prices are again on the decrease.

The personal computer has not only become a mass consumer commodity, it has fallen into the "disposable" category along with razor blades and paper tissue even if we do not yet throw it in a waste basket. Not realising this can be a very traumatic experience for the buyer.

chip talk



Companies who have been using PCs for a while have learnt their lesson well. They plan their data processing budget carefully and consider that the machines are amortised, accounting wise, in four years, typically. After such a period, the "books value" of the computers becomes nil, even if they remain practically operational.

Private users have tougher times. Unless they are ready to bear the expenditure whatever it is, or do enough productive work with their PC to justify the amount spent, they often find the PC's cost prohibitive if it is just to play a few games or get some computer training without an effective target. It is just a matter of knowing in advance what money is being spent and how.

To alleviate the pain, the computer industry proposes some tranquillisers. Alas, they do not always work as well as Valium and Librium tablets. To minimise the loss a PC owner endures, he is offered the option to upgrade his or her machine in order to keep it up-to-date and therefore maintain some of its original value.

Such upgrades consist of adding memory or replacing some of the system's components like the monitor or the hard disk for instance with newer ones. Other solutions are in adding a math co-processor, to increase the processing speed of some PC models. While all of these enhancements are worth the undertaking, they cannot always be technically implemented — some components cannot be installed on others, etc. — Computer dealers will give you a thousand reasons why a specific, long awaited option can't work on your machine.

The magic protection against PC's disposability doesn't exist. All that mortals can do is to always buy the latest, newest available model and, more effectively, to make the best possible use of their computer while they have it.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaib

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

- ★ At Nagoya seaport in Japan there exists the biggest fish aquarium in the world. It weighs 66,500 tonnes.
- ★ The Macaque monkeys are discriminated by their complicated system of communication. Each family has its own accent that would aid them to give a certain sign when exposed to imminent dangers.
- ★ An American keeps a large collection of medical equipment including 2,000 devices among which there are a vacuum hat that restores hair growth, and a chair for treatment by electricity.
- ★ Robert Ripley, a name associated with the "Believe It Or Not" newspaper column, was the first radio announcer whose voice was simultaneously heard both in Europe and America.
- ★ In 1927, the "Believe It Or Not" editor published a piece of information stating that Charles Lindbergh was not the first to cross the Atlantic by plane. Consequently, he received torrents of letters all asking him why that was so!

LET'S LEARN ARABIC

The weather

- The weather is still characterised by high relative humidity.
Lazala al-jaww yatahayya binn-tif'si nissbi fee darajat ar rutuba.
- There will be a strong heat wave.
Sawfa yakkum bawak mawja harariya shadeda.
- There will be a slight fall in temperature.
Sawfa yakkum bawak hubut taffi fee darajat el harara.
- The sun shines all the year round.
Al-shams tasta' tival as sansa.
- We are in for a fine spell.
Nahnu sia alshab jaw jameel.
- We are favoured with magnificent climate.
Nahnu mawtawwa' bi manakh bedi.
- It's splendid and refreshing.
Al-jaww rai' wa mos'ish.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

Hibernation

- Spending of winter in a dormant state, keeping body activities to minimum.
- Practised by some fish, reptiles and animals, notably bears and moths.
- Contrasted with hibernation is "aestivation (summer sleep)" that survives a hot dry summer.
- When food becomes scarce in winter some birds and animals migrate to warmer regions, but others get into as comfortable and safe a place as possible and hibernate, or go to sleep, for some months. Hedgehogs, badgers, tortoises, bats and frogs all do this.
- Principal changes that physically accompany hibernation:
 - a) Temperature falls to within a few degrees of that of the air.
 - b) Heart-beat becomes slow and feeble.
 - c) Respiration almost stops.
 - d) Alimentary canal and excretory organs cease to operate, but life is maintained by the absorption of fat stored in the tissues during autumn.
 - e) Takes place in caves, hollow trees and underleaves.

TIME FOR FUN

- ★ The old man sitting on the bank of a stream, fishing, looked very hot and a little tired. A stranger stopped to pass the time of day and asked the old fellow if he had had any luck.

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

FAME: To dream of achieving fame yourself is a sort of dream of contrary and suggests you are trying to grasp something which is beyond your reach; high aims are commendable but it's healthier to keep them within reasonable bounds. However if your dream involved a famous person, keep trying, because you'll get help from some unexpected source.

MUSIC: Beautiful, harmonious music, heard in a dream, augurs great good fortune in all that deeply concerns you, but unpleasant, cacophony, or out-of-tune music signifies discord in personal relations and/or business difficulties.

PUZZLES

(I) ODD MAN OUT

FOUR have something in common, the other is the "Odd Man Out". You have to decide which.

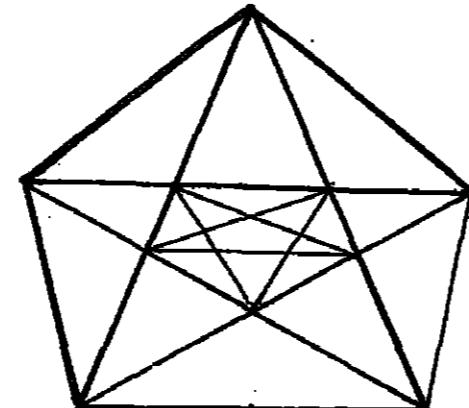
- a- BARRACAN, BAFT, BATISTA, BODEGA, BOMBAY.
- b- BROWN, INDIGO, GREEN, YELLOW, ORANGE.
- c- ROSE, DAFFODIL, SHAMROCK, THISTLE, LEEK.
- d- KRAIT, KOALA, KOB, KYLOE, KUDU.

(II) HOW MANY TRIANGLES?

Have you a clear head? If you haven't, don't try counting the number of triangles in this diagram. At a rough guess, how many would you say there are?

Twenty? Forty? Sixty?

You're in for a surprise when you look at the solution!



Tomorrow, peace, and the sons of Cain

By E. Yaghi

My name is Faris Mohammad, I am 18, and I am waiting for my tomorrow when there will be peace in this land of my fathers and forefathers who tilled the sweet dark soil in the lost days of roses and honey. Those were the days, I was told, when my grandfathers were the rich owners of acres and acres of land, further than the eye could see, where cows and sheep grazed in the land of plenty, a place where red poppies carpeted the unsullied plains and sea gulls flocked to fish upon the fertile sea. In this peaceful land, the dream of freedom never seemed very far away. But one day, the sons of Cain and their cohorts stormed into my sacred land, the cradle of civilisation and home of the ancient prophets, to murder, plunder, pillage and wrench my homeland away from its rightful owners.

I was born in tears and pain and anger in a miserable refugee camp but my father though out of work for some time, bragged to his friends: "At last, my wife had a boy and his name is Faris!"

Everyone is poor in our camp so there were no baby showers or post natal gifts for my weary mother, but there were some smiles and words of "Congratulations," even though my future looked quite bleak from the start.

After the promise of impending peace and the return of Gaza and Jericho, some of the inhabitants of my camp were skeptical, some disappointed and some even hopeful. The feelings mixed with the heat of summer and the odors of neglected sewers and scattered rubbish. There was much talk in my small house with the tin roof which leaked during winter rains and I was very confused, but a feeling of hope lingered in the air and for dinner, for a change, we had some biscuits after tea with milk as a special treat for me. I went to bed early because tomorrow was to be a big day for me. Father and I had an appointment at the UNRWA clinic where I was to see my doctor for a check-up.

Although I never liked having anything to do with medicine or nurses, my father insisted that I go.

Next morning, I woke up early and sat in the middle of the room on the cold cement floor waiting until Mother prepared our simple breakfast of tea and bread. Since my Dad had been out of work for some time now, we felt we were lucky to get even that. I became impatient and screamed at my mother for some food.

"Hush," she scolded, "soon the tea will be ready and then you can have some bread!"

Shunned, I looked at my father who always took my side. "Get Faris's breakfast ready now! You must not keep us men waiting forever for just a cup of tea!"

"He's too spoiled, you know that don't you? How will he ever learn to cope in this troubled world of ours?"

"There's time enough for that. Just prepare our breakfast fast so that we won't be late for our doctor's appointment."

So we drank our tea with a taste of mint, ate some dry bread which we dipped in our steaming cups and got ready "Hush," she scolded, "soon the tea will be ready and then you can have some bread!"

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So we drank our tea with a taste of mint, ate some dry bread which we dipped in our steaming cups and got ready

to go to the UNRWA clinic. Outside, the day was hot as usual and I noticed beads of sweat form on my father's forehead and roll down his face until he wiped it with his handkerchief. Not far ahead, we noticed some Israeli soldiers armed to the teeth with all kinds of fearful weapons. What were they planning to do? Would they throw me into jail too? But my father pushed me by the arm and coaxed me by saying in his soothing voice: "Don't worry son, just keep walking and don't pay attention to them. We're almost there at the clinic."

I scuffed my shoes in the dirt and watched the brown dust swirl up into the tense air. I grabbed my father's hand and got closer to him. We neared some parked cars. I slid my fingers over the silver smooth fender of a bright red car. How nice it would be if my father owned a car like that! Then maybe he would take me away from these spidies and even let me drive it someday. Suddenly, I heard the familiar sounds of guns and something tore a burning hole through my chest. I slumped down in the dirt and heard my father yelling: "My son, he's been hit, he's bleeding! Help!"

My blood felt warm and sticky as it seeped out of my body and soaked the merciless dust near the bright red car. I had so recently admired. Then, I felt my soul rise out of my body and fly to heaven where I now live. I miss my parents very much, but I am divinely happy where I presently reside.

The day of my funeral I heard my father sobbing though my body seemed still and lifeless. It didn't take many people to carry my coffin because I wasn't very heavy and many people shouted because they were outraged by my death. If only I could now fly down to my father and tell him in my angel voice that he should not worry about me anymore for I reside in Paradise.

A few days after my funeral, they dynamited my parent's home because the sons of Cain announced that I was a terrorist and on the day of my death I was hiding behind a car in order to attack the Israeli soldiers. My father presently stays in a tent near the rubble of our small hut, slumped and crying and saying to those who come to pay their condolences: "Faris was only 18 months old. He never lived to be two, yet the Israeli government claims he engaged in terrorist activities. He was just a baby, my only son, my only child! Now I have no house, no job, no son. What is there left to live for?"

Will there ever be peace in the Land of Milk and Honey? Will the sons of Cain ever relinquish any of Palestinian territory to my people? Will there be a tomorrow where the children of the future can play, sing and be free once again in the country that is rightfully theirs? I am going to sing songs of peace on my harp and wait for the day when the sun will smile once more and toddlers like me won't be named terrorists before they even learn how to talk in an occupation ruthlessly and cruelly ruled by usurpers who confiscated cherished Palestinian land with no thought of its inhabitants who have suffered immensely even before international recognition of the Israeli state.

JTV CHANNEL 2

WEEKLY PREVIEW

Happy Birthday Baby

All the family celebrates Walter's birthday.

9:00 Faces and Places

9:30 Documentary — Voyager

Beating The Blizzards

This episode talks about the adventure a British team in the island of South Georgia, and about how to save the parrots in Argentina.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Easter Parade

Starring: Judy Garland and Fred Astaire

Don Hews, the famous dancer, is shocked to find that his dancing partner is becoming arrogant so he quits working with her and starts looking for another girl.

Wednesday, Sept. 15

8:30 The Torkelsons

There is never a dull moment when the crazy Torkelson family is around.

9:10 Documentary — Notre Siede

This episode talks about the most important events that took place between the years 1980-1990, such as destroying the statue of Lenin in Russia, the revolution in Romania.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Ashenden

The Traitor

Ashenden goes to Germany to uncover an English traitor. He succeeds and the traitor is arrested in France.

Thursday, Sept. 9

8:30 Too Close For Comfort

Deadline For Henry

Henry is asked by the newspaper's owner to hand in all his caricatures as soon as possible, before the employees go on strike.

9:10 H.E.L.P.

Undue Force

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — Perfect Profile

Starring: Nancy Lieberman and Mike O'Dell

Friday, Sept. 10

8:30 Head Of The Class

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Heartbreak Hotel

8:30 Golden Girls

Dorothy is arrested for ignoring the building that she owns. All the tenants want to sue her.

9:10 Thirtysomething

Post Op

After discovering that she has cancer Nancy undergoes an operation.

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Mini-Series — Le Géant

Le Géant saves the Queen's life after her boat catches fire. And after investigating he finds out that the one who wanted to kill the Queen was Le Géant's wife.

Saturday, Sept. 11

8:30 It's A Wacky World

9:00 Perspective

9:30 Varieties — Foreigner In Concert

Venice Film Festival turns to sure-fire hits

By Clare Pedrick

VENICE — Steven Spielberg, Robert De Niro, Michelle Pfeiffer, maybe even Madonna — it is years since the Lido attracted such famous faces to its annual movie festival, almost all of them from across the Atlantic. This year's star-studded line-up is a deliberate ploy by artistic director Gillo Pontecorvo to put Venice, whose image has become jaded in recent years, right back on the movie map. But his insistence on going for established names, and above all U.S. ones, has earned him bitter criticism from some corners of the cinema industry.

Opponents of Pontecorvo's new policy accuse him of

being dazzled by the slick, glitzy products pumped out by Hollywood, at the expense of talented Third World movie-makers, whose work has this year been largely ignored.

In sharp contrast to previous festivals, when Venice has shown itself to be generous to low-profile filmmakers, this fall's event has a decidedly Yankee flavour: 13 of the 30 major movies due to be screened during the 12-day bonanza are American productions. Many are highly commercial in tone, almost certain to be box-office smashers. Some will be receiving their premieres at Venice. Others have already been released in the U.S. At least

one — *In The Line Of Fire* starring Clint Eastwood — has so far grossed almost \$100 million in its first month.

This year, there are no entries from such previously fertile sources of fresh talent as India, North Africa or Eastern Europe, to which Venice has devoted serious attention in the recent past. The closest Pontecorvo comes to chancing his arm is with a movie titled *Kosh Ba Kosh*, directed by Bakhtiyar Khudojazov, from Tajikistan, one of only four entries from the developing world competing for the prized Golden Lion award. The others are *Za Zui Zi*, directed by Liu Miaoqiao of China, *You Sing by Hong Kong's Clara Law*, and an Argentinian entry, *De Eso No Se Habla* — (*That's Something We Don't Talk About*), directed by Maria Luisa Bemberg.

These unknowns are competing against the likes of Madonna in *Snake Eyes* directed by Abel Ferrara, *Short Cuts* by Hollywood veteran Robert Altman and *Even Cowgirls Get The Blues*, a raunchy tale liberally spiced with sex scenes by America's bad-boy director Gus Van Sant. Other movies being screened, though not part of the competition, include Steven Spielberg's dinosaur epic *Jurassic Park*, Woody Allen's *Manhattan Murder Mystery*, Martin Scorsese's *The Age Of Innocence*, starring Michelle Pfeiffer and Daniel Day-Lewis, and *The Fugitive*, with daredevil hero Harrison Ford in the lead role.

The selection has proved a controversial one. In an open letter to Pontecorvo, Algerian movie-maker Mahmoud Zemouni accused the Italian festival director of ignoring his own movies and those of other Third World directors in favour of more glamorous sure-fire winners. Similar criticism has been voiced by *Maddalena '93*, a group of mainly European directors who are part of a growing campaign against

the festival's commitment to

what they claim to be the U.S. colonisation of European television and cinema. Festivals such as Venice, say the *Maddalena '93* movie-makers, should devote their energies and efforts to promoting home-grown or hidden talent, instead of pandering to the razzmatazz U.S. film industry where budgets are high and takings all-important.

Gillo Pontecorvo, Italian movie-maker and Venice festival director for the past two years, defends his choice claiming his selection was dictated by reasons of quality rather than geography. "In

every country there are ups and downs as far as production is concerned. At Cannes this year, there were no Spanish films. And at Venice there will be no German films," he said in an interview. "Anyone who knows me realises that I would like to have included more entries from the Third World. Those that have been selected seemed to me to be the best."

With 393 films to choose from, Pontecorvo was unable to see every single movie put forward for consideration. He was helped by a team of other movie experts. But he admits that he had set his heart on a festival of stars this year, the 50th anniversary of the Venice Film Festival. Pontecorvo explained that there is a pressing need to "give back glamour and strength" to the festival at a time when Venice is being more and more eclipsed by the ritzier Cannes Film Festival held over the border on the French Riviera in May each year. Venice, once the number one European appointment on the movie agenda, has all but been pushed into oblivion, and for the past 10 years, the U.S. cinema industry has deserted the Lido. "Last year, when I was in the U.S., it almost made me want to cry when I heard people ask me: 'Oh, is the Venice Film Festival still going?'" said Pontecorvo.

The message, it seems, is that Venice's commitment to

giving him his due, Pontecorvo can claim some credit for innovative additions to the usual festival line-up. One is the *Authors' Assizes*, launched last year, a series of debates and forums held by a panel of novelists and scriptwriters with the aim of breathing new life into the cinema. This year's authors will include Roman Polansky, John Landis, Poland's Jerzy Skolimowski and Italians Ricky Tognazzi, Ettore Scola and the Taviani brothers.

Another new venture is the presence this year of 200 youngsters, all of them winners of a cinema contest held in Italy's high schools. The idea, says Pontecorvo, is to foster new talent and prepare the next generation of movie-makers.

Pontecorvo can also take some satisfaction from the fact that Robert De Niro chose this year's Venice festival for his baptism as a director — with his movie *A Bronx Tale* — and that Robert Altman turned down Cannes in favour of Venice for unveiling his *Short Cuts*.

Wooing such big names is not an easy task in recession-hit Italy. This year's festival, badly hit by a 1 billion lire (\$667,000) cut in government funding, is being run under the watchful eye of government auditors, who have embarked on a crusade to put an end to the lavish excesses for which Venice had become famous. This year, only a handful of government ministers have been invited, and the budget for hospitality has been drastically cut back, a far cry from the golden years when money and champagne flowed for politicians, their girlfriends, secretaries and other hangers-on who spent between seven to ten days in the Lido's best hotels, running up bills of thousands of

2,600 people were wined and dined and lodged at festival expense for no good reason in the past three years alone. This year, even the stars invited by the festival committee will be hosted for a maximum of three days and must pay their own hotel extras. Barbra Streisand, originally due to sit on the jury, has been rejected on the grounds that she is "too expensive," says Pontecorvo. Her place as jury president was taken by Peter Weir, the Australian director who made *Dead Poet's Society*, flanked by writers James Ivory, Chen Kaige, Nelson Pereira Dos Santos, Elliott Silverstein and movie critic Pierre Henry de Leau. As the film festival opened, the seventh jury member, Bosnian movie-maker Abdullah Sidran, was trapped in his native Sarajevo, unable to leave because of the civil war. Pontecorvo has asked Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta to intervene to secure Sidran a safe pass out of the stricken city — *World News Link*.

Newland Archer (Daniel Day-Lewis) and Countess Ellen Olenska (Michelle Pfeiffer) share a private moment in *The Age Of Innocence*

Competing for the Golden Lion

— **SHORT CUTS:** Directed by 68-year-old Robert Altman (USA), whose biggest hits have included *Nashville*, *The Long Goodbye* and more recently *The Player*. Based on eight short stories by the late American writer Raymond Carver, Altman's latest movie looks at the down-side of the American dream by tracing 22 characters, all of them set against the backdrop of seedy Los Angeles. Starring Jack Palance, Tim Robbins and Andie MacDowell.

— **SNAKE EYES:** Directed by Abel Ferrara (USA), starring Madonna, who also makes her debut as a producer. The tale of the breakdown and end of a marriage. For once, Madonna, who plays the wife, is cast in the role of a victim, a fragile blonde who ends up losing her husband.

Diane Keaton suspects a neighbour of murder in Woody Allen's *Manhattan Murder Mystery*

— **EVEN COWGIRLS GET THE BLUES:** Directed by Gus Van Sant. Actress Uma Thurman plays the part of a good-looking girl with a taste for adventure, who hitch-hikes her way around America and has a series of encounters, mostly of the sexual kind.

— **DE ESO NO SE HABLA (THAT'S SOMETHING WE DON'T TALK ABOUT):** Directed by Maria Luisa Bemberg (Argentina). In a small town in Argentina lives a woman, Leonor and her daughter Charlotte, born a dwarf. A wealthy widow, played by Marcello Mastroianni, falls in love with the girl and asks to marry her. But the arrival of a circus in town upsets all the plans.

— **UN, DEUX, TROIS, SOLEIL (ONE, TWO, THREE, SUN):** Directed by Bertrand Blier (France). This film also stars Marcello Mastroianni, cast in the role of an alcoholic father, whose fondness for drink makes it hard for him to find his way home. Along the way, he picks up poor children, and takes them in off the street.

— **KOSH BA KOSH:** Directed by Bakhtiyar Khudojazov (Tajikistan). Mira sets out on a long journey from Russia to Tajikistan, in search of her father, who is a gambling addict. But when she finds him, she discovers that her father's vice has taken such a hold that he has lost all grip on reason. And when the stakes are down, he decides to sell even his daughter so he can have just one more game.

— **DOVE SIETE? IO SONO QUI: (WHERE ARE YOU? I AM HERE):** Directed by Liliam Cavani (Italy). The story of a love that develops between two students, both of whom are deaf, and the hostility that their relationship provokes. Among the many obstacles blocking the young couple's path to happiness is a difference in social class. He comes from a well-to-do family. She is from a working class background.

— **ZA ZUI Zi (BIG MOUTH):** Directed by Liu Miaoqiao (China). Minsheng, a small boy growing up in the Chinese town of Jixiang, is given the nickname Za Zui Zi because, say the grown-ups, he chatters too much. But Minsheng is a sharp observer when it comes to looking at the adult world.

Movies not part of the contest

— **THE AGE OF INNOCENCE:** Directed by Martin Scorsese (USA). Michelle Pfeiffer and Daniel Day-Lewis star in what has been billed as the most romantic movie of the decade, a period piece taken from the novel by Edith Wharton. The story traces the passionate love affair between Countess Ellen Olenska (Michelle Pfeiffer) and the young lawyer Newland Archer (Daniel Day-Lewis) in puritan New York at the close of last century. May Welland (Winona Ryder), is Archer's real fiancee, strictly brought up by her mother (Geraldine Chaplin), and the exact opposite of her fascinating cousin Ellen.

— **A MANHATTAN MURDER MYSTERY:** Directed by Woody Allen (USA). A who-dunit, Allen-style, his first

movie since his break-up with Mia Farrow and the scandal over his alleged mistreatment of the couple's children. Allen has described the movie as a film he made to enjoy himself, "a reward after what has been a very difficult year from a personal point of view." The movie stars Diane Keaton, who replaces Mia Farrow, as well as Anjelica Huston and Alan Alda and tells the story of how a middle-aged couple turn homicide sleuths after a murder breaks up their normally quiet existence.

— **BOXING HELENA:** Directed by Jennifer Lynch (USA). This young director is the 24-year-old daughter of David Lynch, of *Twin Peaks* fame. The bond is obviously a strong one. Her first major movie has a massive dose of the surreal and the bloodthirsty, just like her dad's. It traces the obsessive love of a brilliant surgeon who cuts off his beloved's arms and legs so he can serve her, closed up in a box shaped like a throne. The title role is played by Sherilyn Fenn, who also starred in Lynch senior's bizarre cult serial *Twin Peaks*. She stepped in after Kim Basinger bowed out, landing herself with a whopping \$9 million fine for breach of contract.

— **IN THE LINE OF FIRE:** Directed by Wolfgang Petersen (USA). Clint Eastwood plays an ageing Secret Service agent fighting to prevent the assassination of the president of the United States. He is haunted by his failure, 30 years earlier, to foil the murder of former President John F. Kennedy.

— **DAVE:** Directed by Ivan Reitman, of *Ghostbusters* fame (USA). Another movie revolving around the president of the U.S., but with a very different style. Starring Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver, this is a fast-paced comedy about an ordinary guy, one Dave Kovic, who works in an employment agency and bears an uncanny resemblance to the president. He is hired to take his place so the real president can go and enjoy himself. Circumstances will it that Dave has to stay on for longer than was planned, and there are those who would say he does a better job than the real incumbent of the White House.

— **WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT:** Directed by Brian Gibson (USA). Taken from singer-songwriter Tina Turner's autobiography, *I Tina*, this is the tale of the stormy marriage between Tina and Ike Turner, the musician who brought her from anonymity to international fame, but whose violence and infidelities proved too hard to stomach. The movie traces Tina's decision to take her kids and leave her husband, and how, from rock bottom, she started all over again to launch a fresh career, even more successful than the first. Tina is played by Angela Bassett, who was Betty Shabazz, the wife of Malcolm X, in the movie of the same name by Spike Lee.

— **THE FUGITIVE:** Directed by Andrew Davis (USA). Harrison Ford, Hollywood's favourite daredevil actor, plays the doctor wrongly accused of murdering his wife, and his desperate flight from the electric chair on the trail of the real



Estranged from her husband, Countess Olenska (Michelle Pfeiffer) makes a new life in New York in Martin Scorsese's *The Age Of Innocence*

killer. The story is based on the best-selling TV series, also called *The Fugitive*, made 30 years ago, and avidly followed by viewers around the globe. Then, the doctor-on-the-run was played by David Jansen.

— **JURASSIC PARK:** Directed by Steven Spielberg (USA). A first showing in Europe for Spielberg's latest film, already proving to be a box-office smash in the U.S. Based on the best-selling book by Michael Crichton, the movie recreates a park owned by an eccentric American millionaire, who has cloned real-life dinosaurs to produce the world's most spectacular tourist attraction. Dazzling special effects, even by Spielberg standards.

— **A BRONX TALE:** Directed and produced by Robert De Niro (USA). De Niro makes his debut as a director with this movie, in which he also plays a leading role, that of a father locked in a desperate and hopeless battle to stop his son becoming mixed up in a dangerous underworld gang in the Bronx of the 1960s.

Cannabis research opens a new window on the brain

LONDON (R) — Cannabis, marijuana, hash, grass, pot, ganja, bhang — one way or another people have been smoking or eating the Indian hemp plant for thousands of years.

But it is only now that scientists are beginning to understand how the drug works.

Their answers could help in the search for novel therapies for a range of ailments from glaucoma to mental disorders, and shed new light on the complex chemical workings of the brain.

Since the late 1980s scientists have known that the

brain contains tiny "receptors" through which the main active ingredient in cannabis, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), acts.

Until last year they were mystified as to why humans had chemical "docking sites" which let them get "high".

Then, in December a new chemical was found in pigs' brains which seemed to do naturally what cannabis does when smoked. It was named Anandamide, from the Sanskrit "ananda" for "bliss".

Now scientists have confirmed that finding. Using cells grown in culture they

proved, in a paper published in July, that Anandamide does indeed bind to the same receptors as THC and triggers similar responses.

"It provides further evidence for the idea that we have a system in the brain which is made up of cannabis receptors," said Aberdeen University's Dr. Roger Pertwee, secretary of the International Cannabis Research Society and one of the original discoverers of Anandamide.

"It's very exciting because this is a newly discovered system of the brain about

which we know nothing." While Anandamide has yet to be isolated in human brains, he believes it is only a matter of time before it is tracked down.

What the mind-bending substance is doing in our brains remains a mystery.

The fact that the receptors are located in the hippocampus area, which controls memory, the cerebral cortex, involving higher thought processes, and the basal ganglia, affecting movement, may give some clues.

Dr. Pertwee speculates that the brain may use Anan-

damide to fine-tune memory and learning, and the chemical could have a role to play in disorders like depression and schizophrenia.

Understanding Anandamide's function may also help in the search for drugs which deliver the therapeutic benefits of cannabis without making people high.

Cannabis, while shunned by modern doctors, has a long history of medicinal use, dating back to ancient Chinese times.

Britain's Queen Victoria, whose physician described it as "one of the most valuable

medicines we possess", was given it to ease her menstrual pains.

There is considerable anecdotal evidence that cannabis counters the nausea caused by chemotherapy, stimulates appetite in AIDS patients and fights the spasms of multiple sclerosis.

It is also believed to help glaucoma sufferers by reducing the build-up of pressure in the eye.

A handful of doctors in Europe and the United States encourage approval of patients smoking the drug to help relieve symptoms.

But Dr. Lester Grinspoon, professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, and co-author of a book published earlier this year on the benefits of cannabis, believes that the medical establishment as a whole is neglecting a valuable remedy.

Cannabis' main problem, compared with approved prescription medicines, is its blunderbuss action.

Smoking a joint involves inhaling around 60 different psychotropic substances, triggering all sorts of different chemical reactions in the brain.

Unravelling just how the body makes and uses its own version of the drug may help efforts to design selective cannabis-based medicines in future.

Dr. Pertwee expects drug firms, some of which have worked to no avail to produce cannabis derivatives in the past, will be cautious before committing new money to a controversial area.

"At the moment I think the drug companies are just waiting until the basic scientists come up with something they can apply," he said.

High-tech textiles tackle problems from cancer to smelly socks

By Cynthia Johnson

Reuter

LONDON — High-tech wardrobes aren't meant for Darth Vader look-alike contests — but they may prevent skin cancer, pep up your day at the office or even save you from smelly socks.

Textile technologists say they are hard at work on so-called "fabric enhancements" which not only make clothes more useful but sometimes more fun to wear.

"We're trying to find new things all the time," said Gordon Nelson, senior project leader in the biotechnology department of the British Textile and Technology Group, a major research

body.

Such innovations are in addition to the constant search for new fibres like Courtaulds PLC's recent Tencel, a material its makers claim "looks like denim but feels like silk".

One of the latest innovations was revealed last month when scientists in Australia — which has the world's highest rate of skin cancer — said they had invented a way of treating clothes that gives wearers better sun protection than sunscreen lotions.

Funded by the Sydney company Sunsafe Clothing and Licensing, the researchers developed a chemical that when applied to fabric gives wearers five to nine times more protection

from damaging ultraviolet sunlight than conventional clothing.

The lightweight fabrics such as cotton T-shirts or cotton-polyester blends worn in hot weather only protect wearers from the sun for about two-and-a-half hours. This compares with 12½ hours or more when treated with the new chemical, they said.

Other products that have already generated much interest in heat and light are dyes that respond to temperature or light changes by changing colour. First developed by the Japanese in the 1980s, the sportswear and other clothing treated with them are now big business, especially in teenage and child-

ren's wear.

The Japanese also lead the way on fibres that turn sunlight into thermal energy, an innovation that has obvious applications for skiwear as well as curtains and interior furnishings.

Unitika Ltd. was first to produce a textile made of the thermal fibre, working with skiwear-maker Descente.

Scientists say some of the most promising areas of research these days are uses for "microencapsulation", which may range from bespoke aromatherapy to a replacement for sheep dip.

"It's a bit like those scratch-and-sniff perfume samples," said one U.S.-based biochemist. "What you

have is a chemical encapsulated in something and when the capsule breaks, the chemical is released. The tiny capsules are bound onto textiles in various ways."

Osaka-based spinning to cosmetics group Kanebo Ltd. markets a range of women's tights covered in encapsulated seaweed extracts which are supposed to administer a lanolin-like effect and make the wearer's legs feel softer. The action of wearing the tights gradually dispenses the extracts.

Japanese, and more recently North American, scientists have investigated applying aromatherapy substances to fabrics in the hope, for example, of making wear-

ers more energetic.

Mr. Nelson said much work has been done in the British textile and technology group on incorporating perfumes, anti-bacterial compounds and insecticides into capsules.

"The technique we use involves yeast cells. These are small microbes and we can actually put chemicals like perfumes inside them. The perfume is given off gradually through the yeast cell wall. It can survive for years and you can wash the fabric 30 or more times and still have the perfume."

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Russians flock to folk remedies, faith healers

By Julia Rubin

The Associated Press
MOSCOW — Sixteen-year-old Lena says she is feeling much better. She has just had 5 metres worth of evil spirits yanked out of her body by a faith healer, and hopes it will cure her chronic headaches.

The exorcism took place in a hallway at the international conference of Russian traditional

folk medicine, a four-day affair that has drawn thousands of people — converts and the merely curious.

Despite its name, the conference is a grab bag of remedies both Russian and foreign, new-age and traditional — everything from herbal medicines and yoga to astrology and black magic. There are secret ointments and soothing cassettes and

multitudes of books on mysticism — even volumes about the most infamous of Russian mystics, Grigory Rasputin.

Hardly any of this stuff was available under the atheist Soviet government, and Russians are devouring it. There were so many people at the conference that the crowd spilled into parking lots around the stolid Meridian Cultural Centre.

The rise of faith healers and new-age prophets worries many Russians. In letters to newspapers and government officials, doctors and scientists have warned that people battered by political and economic instability are easy prey for quacks and frauds.

The Russian Orthodox Church also has condemned the influx of foreign missionaries of all stripes.

But people at the folk medicine conference said their spirituality will help Russia rebuild after seven decades of official atheism.

"Today with all the changes people are looking for new ways. They have hope for the future," said Gennady Savchenko, a member of the Supreme Soviet who was selling acupuncture needles.

Others noted that many of the new ways are cheaper.

Valentin Berezin, who publishes a magazine called Drugstore Garden, noted that folk medicines have gained currency at the same time pharmaceuticals have become increasingly unaffordable and in short supply.

Berezin promotes the medicinal uses of common plants, including some of the more unusual ancient prescriptions. "To heal rheumatism, summon the courage to lash yourself with nettles," his magazine suggests. "To get rid of freckles, wash your face in sap from a young birch."

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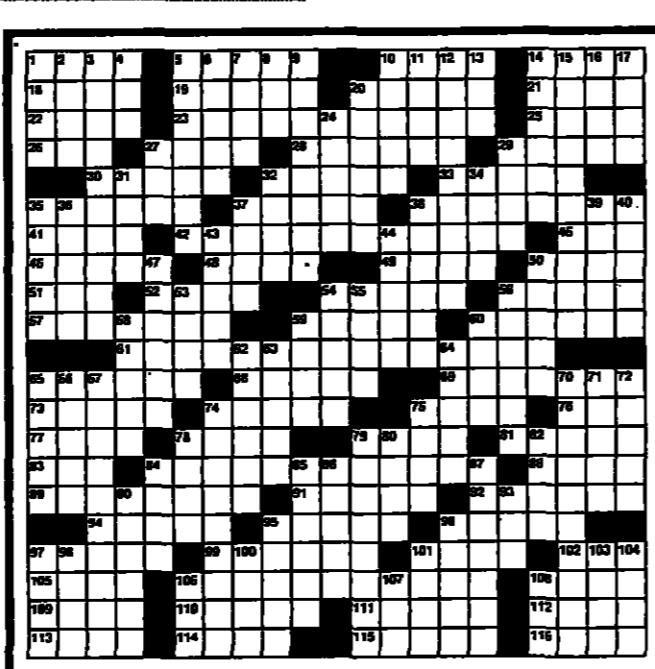
she could see coming out of Lena's stomach.

Afterward, Ivanova crossed herself over and over and told Lena: "You have been very sick. Five metres I pulled out," and she pointed with disgust to the floor, where the spirits apparently had coiled in a heap.

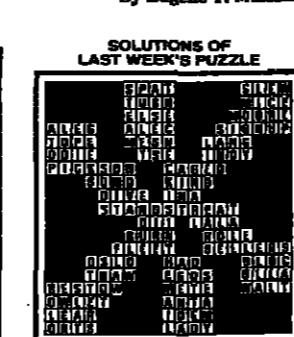
Lena's 15-minute exorcism, conducted by a stout, unsmiling faith healer named Aurora Ivanova, was a dramatic mix of pagan and Christian rituals.

As the girl stood in her conservative wool suit with her eyes closed and arms extended, the grimacing Ivanova caressed the air around her and began yanking at a rope of bad spirits that only

WEEKEND CROSSWORD



CRYPTOGRAMS
1. TJP TJBL LHCIIH XJEAD JTJP YE CDSL XTEAYD. ESB AFX YHD KFHYT DFYSD JK FBL. — By Earl Ireland
2. XIQPMN IPORLN EIPWXL CY EQMI CPWEPSC QFI YCZXS LC AI WCMCFIS Q MPORL AMZPGFIS. — By Gordon Miller
3. ZXY WVZW TT SVLZ ZXRQW PONY TYLXOLH ZYXOLH TVWZYYQVH SJOZTYLN ZY PJORN OXOLHW. — By Rita Salvato
4. LIPS CREEPHE KLILSLY PT ERUPTC ZTY CKRUPTC IPSL CRZLHPTL. — By Eugene T. Melska



Antibody treatment stops arthritis inflammation

WASHINGTON (R) — A new treatment appears to stop painful inflammation from rheumatoid arthritis and may lead to new treatment of multiple sclerosis, scientists said.

"It has extraordinarily high therapeutic value," Randolph Noelle, a Dartmouth University microbiologist, said of the treatment, which involves the use of antibodies.

Dr. Noelle and his colleagues at Dartmouth and at Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceutical Research Institute report on their findings in the latest issue of science.

"Basically the GP39 can't function because it has a big fat molecule stuck to it," said Dr. Noelle.

The antibody, culled from hamster blood, was tested in laboratory mice, in whom rheumatoid arthritis was induced. None of the mice that received antibody treatment showed symptoms of the disease, while all of those in the control group did.

"The most compelling thing about the data is that absolutely none of the treated group had any signs of disease," said Dr. Noelle.

"These findings represent a positive step in the search for effective treatments for rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, and other forms of arthritis in which autoimmunity plays a role," said Brian Butcher, who heads the Atlanta-based Arthritis Foundation's research efforts.

The immune systems of people with rheumatoid arthritis, which afflicts more than two million Americans, are overly aggressive and cause the body to attack its own healthy joint tissue, leading to painful and sometimes crippling inflammation and joint damage.

The antibody treatment was tested on laboratory mice with success, the researchers said.

An antibody is a protein that normally is generated in the blood to neutralize foreign proteins and thereby produce immunity against microorganisms or their toxins.

The antibody the researchers produced and tested attaches itself to a receptor, known as GP39, on the outside of a certain type of the body's white cells and renders one part of the immune system inactive.

These findings represent a positive step in the search for effective treatments for rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, and other forms of arthritis in which autoimmunity plays a role," said Brian Butcher, who heads the Atlanta-based Arthritis Foundation's research efforts.

He said his team hopes to move rapidly to test a human version of the antibody.

"There's a lot to be done before we move to humans, but there is every reason to believe that what we've seen in mice we will see in humans because the immune response is the same."

SOLUTIONS

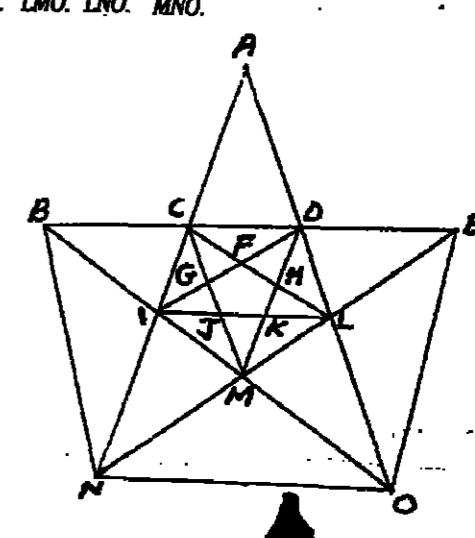
PUZZLES

(I) ODD MAN OUT

a- All are materials except BODEGA, a Spanish wine shop.
b- BROWN is not a colour of the spectrum.
c- The DAFFODIL is not an emblem of the British Isles.
d- All animals except KRAIT, a snake.

(II) HOW MANY TRIANGLES?

Did you get it right? The answer is 85. The best way to tackle these tortures is to letter each of the points at which the lines meet. Then, work out the triangles thus: ABC, ABD, ABE, ABL, ABN, ABO, ACD, ACE, ACL, ADE, ADL, AEL, AEN, AEO, AIL, AIO, ALN, ANO, BCI, BCM, BCN, BDI, BDM, BDO, BEM, BEN, BEO, BIN, BBN, BNO, CDF, CDG, CDH, CDI, CDL, CDM, CEL, CEM, CEN, CGF, CGI, CGL, CHM, CJL, CIL, CIM, CIL, CLM, CLN, CMN, DEL, DEM, DEO, DFL, DGM, DHL, DIK, DIL, DIO, DKL, DLM, DMO, ELO, EMO, ENO, FIL, GIJ, GIM, HKL, HLM, IJM, ILM, ILM, ILO, IMN, ION, JKM, JLM, KLM, LMO, LNO, MNO.



No escaping poverty for millions of peasants

By Dan Biers
The Associated Press

QUANNAO, China — The view from Li Liangyu's front door is of pastoral beauty: a small waterfall coursing down a green hill into a stream that winds lazily through a patchwork of rice paddies.

Turn around and walk inside, and the dingy lines of poverty take over, stretching across his floor of beaten dirt and cobblestones.

At the back of the cobwebbed main room of the decaying brick home is a plain wooden table surrounded by narrow benches. Primitive farm implements and wooden buckets lie about. There is nothing to hook up to the thin electrical line except one bare lightbulb.

The store of food is as simple as the furnishings: rice, red chiles and corn. Since the fields do not yield a livelihood, the Li family harvests bamboo from the mountainsides, takes odd jobs and borrows money to ensure three meals of rice a day.

"Our standard of living is very bitter," said Li Shihong, 21, the second son in the seven-member family.

Six decades have passed since Mao Tse-Tung and his communist rebels roamed the hilly backlands of Xingguo county, winning the support of peasants desperate to escape centuries of poverty by creating an egalitarian society.

Forty-four years after the communists gained power, tens of millions of peasants remain mired in poverty, many with little hope of escape. The booming coastal cities of modern China are a world away."

The Lis, for example, have basic clothing and do not appear malnourished.

China's most destitute peasants cannot even afford matches or salt. Some have no furniture. Others live in caves in order not to encroach on the little arable land.

In one region of Sichuan Province, brothers marry the same woman to reduce expenses, and mothers and daughters share one pair of trousers, the farmers' daily reported.

Alan Piazza, a World Bank economist, has visited regions where peasants eat nothing but corn gruel and a bit of vegetable.

"Forty-four years after the communists gained power, tens of millions of peasants remain mired in poverty, many with little hope of escape. The booming coastal cities of modern China are a world away."

"Clearly they're deficient in protein and energy," he said. "There's rampant malnutrition."

Still, rural poverty has fallen dramatically in the decade since communes were dismantled in favour of family farms.

The World Bank estimates the number of "absolute poor" peasants — determined by a subsistence food basket — fell from 260 million in 1978, about one-third of the rural population, to 96 million in 1985. The Chinese government says 27 million lack adequate food and clothing.

In Xingguo, officials claim everyone has adequate food and clothing. There are new schools, an extensive road system and electrification. Some peasants have new homes, small motorcycles and cheap televisions.

But listen to the residents of Quan Nao village and it is clear

that progress is not equally shared.

When asked when he had last eaten pork, a neighbour of the Lis pondered before replying: "the beginning of May."

Another, asked about recent purchases, seemed stumped, then said: "I haven't bought anything lately."

While the government encourages rich peasants and successful entrepreneurs to accumulate wealth, "few welfare measures ... have been provided to cushion the fall of the families and individuals who are ill-equipped to compete," said Jonathan Unger, a China scholar at Australian National University.

As Li Shihong tells it, not only do officials give him no financial help, they levy taxes that he must pay in grain for lack of cash. Last year, he said, the bill came to 440 pounds (200 kilograms) of rice per family needed for food.

"The government doesn't care about us," Mr. Li said. His father added quickly: "The government doesn't have the funds to help."

Actually, the central government gives Xingguo county 5 million yuan (\$877,000) a year in poverty relief. But county officials say it is better to invest the money in projects that increase production than hand it out to needy families.

Even when the money is distributed, the needy do not always benefit. Mr. Unger found while travelling in impoverished Yunnan province that well-connected rich households were getting a large share of the relief funds.

He also found that the poorest peasants could not get loans for fertiliser because they lacked collateral.

"In these inland hill-district villages, a family that falls below a certain threshold can find itself caught helplessly in a downward spiral into slow starvation," he wrote in a research study.

Appropriations for China's anti-poverty programme declined

in real terms from 1985 to 1990 and no progress was made in reducing the number of poor, the World Bank reported.

State media gave prominent display recently to statements by an official that many of the neediest were being neglected as attention focused on developing rich coastal regions.

Nonetheless, Mr. Piazza said, by creating more job opportunities the coastal boom has probably enabled millions of peasants to rise above poverty.

Further progress will require substantial investment in rural education and health services, roads to connect the poorest regions with markets, and development of such basic industries as mining and food-processing.

For the few million people of the most desolate regions, perhaps the only answer is resettlement, said Liu Wenpu of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

"There are a lot of problems, though," he said. "Where would you move to? There's already a large population wherever you go."

The cost of resettlement — about \$1,750 per person — also is an obstacle.

Mr. Liu remains optimistic that China will be able to ensure all peasants adequate food and clothing by 2000.

Xingguo's poor do not appear so much angered by their lot as resigned to it. They do not hunger for the imported cognac, fancy cars and elegant fashions of the urban nouveau riche — a little more pork would be just fine.

Yao Shanzhang, 53, who lives down the road from the Lis, is happy that his family now has steamed rice every day, a big step up from the watery porridge that was once their staple.

"I'm more satisfied with life than before," Mr. Yao said, but added wistfully: "I want so many things. I just don't have the cash to buy them."

By Robert Mahoney
Reuter

AL OUJA, West Bank — If Yasser Arafat ever returns to the West Bank he will find this village just north of his Jericho enclave almost as poor as it was before it fell to Israel in the 1967 war.

Al Ouja, like the rest of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, has missed a generation of economic development under Israeli occupation, its residents say.

Those who fled in 1967 to the neighbouring village of Shouneh on the East Bank of the River Jordan have prospered.

"Those on the other side, in Jordan, are much better off than us," said Mustapha Abu Jarood, 57, who regularly visits his sister in Shouneh.

He reels off a list of benefits ranging from crop loans to telephones enjoyed by his erstwhile neighbours that Al Ouja can only dream of.

If the Israeli-PLO accord on interim self-rule is to mean anything to villagers like these it must bring a better standard of living.

Both Mr. Arafat and Israel need to pump in money to outflank Islamic and PLO opponents who find recruits among the thousands of unemployed Palestinian youths. Israel and the United States are looking for money from Europe, Japan and the six Gulf states that pledged their support for the accord this week.

The Gulf states cut off PLO funding during the 1990-91 crisis and war over Kuwait because Mr. Arafat supported Iraq. Neither the PLO nor the territories have recovered from the blow. Remittances from Palestinian workers in the Gulf dried up.

The fragile agricultural economies of the West Bank and Gaza were staggering again this year when Israel delivered a blow by sealing off the two million inhabitants of the territories after attacks on Jews.

Palestinian produce has rotted

Economy a key to Israeli-PLO accord success

for want of a market. The loss of cash earned by the 100,000 Palestinians who used to work in Israel has slashed consumption.

"We used to send a truckload of melons to Jordan for 1,200 to 1,700 dinars," said farmer Abu Wali. "Now we send our trucks only to (nearby) Nablus and we get 600 shekels (\$200)."

Mr. Arafat hopes to get about

University's Armand Hammer Fund says \$10 billion is needed to bring infrastructure closer to Israel's level.

He says facilities, particularly the water supply, are creaking and unable even to sustain the residents' present standard of living.

Reliable figures about the territories are hard to find but several

thrust to four times lower than in Israel.

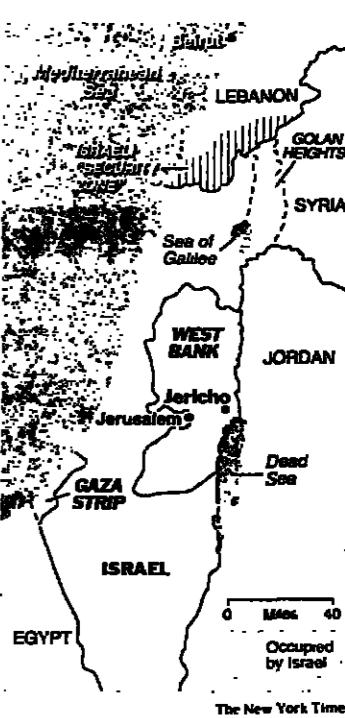
Most Palestinian and Israeli economists agree that a future Palestinian entity can thrive only by open trade with Israel and Jordan. If the five-year interim self-rule period works they predict Israelis will build factories and invest in the territories.

For the economists the damage and lost opportunities of a generation can be put right quickly. But as always in the Middle East it is politics as much as economics that will decide.

"With a good economic policy we can bridge the gap with Israel in five to 10 years," Mr. Abdullah maintains. "But for that we need a democratic way of life, social justice, enforcement of laws, and rights of property."

That, initially at least, may prove a tall order for a region like this.

"Economists forecast that more than \$10 billion will be needed to repair the damage done by 27 years of occupation. Israel has built minimum facilities in the (occupied) territories while taking most of its water and land, and taxing its residents to pay for their occupying army."



The New York Times

German parties jockey for presidential succession

By Tom Heneghan
The Associated Press

plex because the head of state should be someone who can act as a moral conscience for a nation still troubled by its dark Nazi past and now challenged by the demands of uniting East and West Germans.

His coalition partners, the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP), continue to urge the silent Gerhard Schröder to change his mind while the SPD looks set to name Mr. Rau as its candidate next month.

Some FDP politicians and a few long-time Kohl critics within the CDU, like Saxony State Premier Kurt Biedenkopf, have tried to buck Mr. Kohl's plan by announcing or hinting they would also support Mr. Rau.

A dark-horse candidate, the former East German civil rights activist Jens Reich, has also taken the unusual step of publicly throwing his hat into the ring — normally a sure way to rule oneself out of contention for the job.

"Any hope of keeping the presidential election out of next year's election manoeuvring was buried on Monday," the liberal

Frankfurter Rundschau wrote. Apart from turning the race into a party political issue, Kohl has now also increased pressure on his coalition partners, the FDP leader, Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, to swallow hard and support the CDU candidate just to keep the Bonn coalition going.

The CDU's move to stake its claim to the presidency seems to have boosted the prospects for Steffen Heitmann, the justice minister in the East German state of Saxony, who is all but unknown in the far more populous West.

CDU officials say Mr. Kohl bowed in on Mr. Heitmann after failing to find any more prominent easterners with national appeal and no political problems left over from the communist era.

Mr. Heitmann, 48, comes from Dresden and made himself a name there during and after the collapse of communist rule in 1989 as legal adviser to dissidents.

Car bombing highlights crime wave

By Isabelle Astigarraga
Agence France Presse

MOSCOW — The car bomb killing of a Greek businessman over the weekend has dramatically highlighted the wave of gangster violence that has overwhelmed Moscow recently, leaving more than 60 dead in four months.

The car bombing — reportedly the first such incident in Moscow — was in fact only one of three crimes over the weekend that would have been unheard of in Russia's capital a few years ago.

On Sunday what police described as a "military training explosive" blew up in front of the apartment of Sergei Belashov, a Moscow city councillor in charge of youth issues. No one was injured.

Later Sunday police had to defuse an anti-tank grenade found tied to a pole on one of the rides in the Gorky Amusement Park.

Police said they were not sure that the car bomb which killed N. Lepidis, director of the firm Spartak, on Friday was aimed at him. They thought it might have been intended to kill the car's owner, the deputy manager of the nearby Hotel Belgrade.

But the authorities saw all three incidents as the latest examples of the Moscow under-

ground's determination to settle scores and deliver chilling warnings.

The city has seen a spate of Mafia-style hitmen armed with submachine guns murdering businessmen in restaurants and casinos. Police records list 23 gangster murders in the past six weeks, and more than 60 since the beginning of May.

"It is gang warfare," said a high-ranking member of the city's security forces last month: "we will look into it once they have finished killing each other."

Another police chief said this month: "The Mafia is immortal." He added that the police were seeking to "consolidate the gangs" so that there was one godfather with whom they could deal.

Local businessmen find this attitude frightening. Far from a mere settling of scores among gangsters, businessmen see the killings as designed to intimidate those who refuse to bow to protection rackets and the like.

After hitmen murdered 10 bankers in a few weeks, a group of the city's top executives asked President Boris Yeltsin to intervene personally to make sure businessmen received protection.

What is happening, the businessmen say, is that the Mafia is moving out of its traditional territory — the bars, nightclubs and casinos — and trying to establish itself on the wider plain as Russia develops a free market economy.

Mr. Yeltsin has regularly condemned the Mafia and called for stronger measures against organized crime. But observers say he has yet to deliver the follow-through.

His failure to implement tough measures has had consequences for more than the business community, though. The crime wave has become a political issue.

Conservative members of parliament have been quick to blame Mr. Yeltsin for the lawlessness, saying it has increased sixfold in five years.

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Gulf shippers to raise rates on freight from Far East

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Shipping companies serving the oil-rich Gulf and South East Asia have decided to raise freight rates by nearly 15 per cent after their plunge over the past two years inflicted large losses on most firms, shipping sources in the region said Tuesday.

Japan, the main economic partner of the Gulf countries, is expected from the hike because of a surge in the yen, the sources said.

The increases, to take effect from Oct. 15, will affect rates on cargo destined from South East Asia for Iran and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the sources said.

"Most shipping companies operating on this line have suffered from heavy losses due to a steady decline in shipping rates as a result of growing international competition," one source said.

"In order to continue providing the required standard of shipping services, the operating companies had no choice but to increase freight rates by \$150 per 20-foot container and \$100 per 40-foot container," he added.

Kazakhstan kicks off privatisation with shop auctions

ALMA-ATA, Kazakhstan (AFP) — The Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan Tuesday auctioned off 14 shops, kicking off the first stage of its programme for the privatisation of state-owned property.

Private entrepreneurs spent a total of 290.7 million roubles or about \$322,000 to buy the shops, most of which are grocery stores, at the auction organised with the assistance of the World Bank.

The initial value of the shops was set slightly higher at 300.1 million roubles.

Under the terms of the sale, new private owners must "maintain the current services" and goods sold at the shops for the next five years.

Shop auctions are scheduled to take place in five other cities of Kazakhstan in the upcoming months.

"We expect 20,000 stores, cafeterias and buffets to be sold off by 1994. All small enterprises will be auctioned off," said Michael Sipos, spokesman for the World Bank. "Privatisation is a main basis for building a new economy," the spokesman added.

Kazakhstan's two-year programme for privatisation calls for holding shop auction in the first stage followed by transforming large state-owned enterprises whose number of employees total more than 200 into joint stock companies.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Dealers see fresh falls for shell-shocked gold market

Freight rates on most lines serving the Gulf have declined over the past two years as a result of competitions and operations of new companies.

According to shipping sources, rates on containers from the Far East to the region fell by nearly 20 per cent to \$1,100 from \$1,400.

Freight rates on the United States also dropped by around 20 per cent to \$2,000 from \$2,800 and on those from Europe by nearly 27 per cent to \$1,100 from \$1,500.

The decline has prompted several companies to join each other in blood to coordinate shipping fees and face competition.

They include the so-called Europe Middle East Rate Agreement (EMERA), formed two years ago by 14 international and regional firms, including Kuwait-based United Arab Shipping Company (UASC).

Another bloc was created last month by UASC and around 12 other companies to serve between the Gulf and Mediterranean ports in Africa and Europe. UASC, owned by GCC gov-

ernments except Oman, has yet to release its 1992 balance sheet, but shipping sources said it had suffered losses because of the drop in freight rates after a record profit of \$60 million in 1991.

Last month, EMERA issued a surcharge on currency exchange differential from 2.3 per cent to 1.5 per cent after an improvement in the U.S. dollar against other major Western currencies.

It was the second reduction by EMERA in a month. In July, it cut the surcharge to 2.5 per cent from 5.5 per cent after the U.S. dollar began to gain ground against European currencies following a steep fall.

"There is no intention to increase freight rates on cargo from Japan because they are already high within the currency adjustment factor (CAF) as a result of the surge in the yen," a shipping source said.

Shipping lines between the Gulf and South East Asia are among the busiest in the world, as Far East countries are major trade partners of the region. Their two-way trade, including Gulf oil exports, exceed \$50 billion a year.

LONDON (R) — Gold tumbled to \$325.25 per ounce Wednesday and dealers forecast further falls for the shell-shocked market.

"The chances of a bounce happening (in the short term) are about the same as a Bank of England cheque bouncing," said one London-based dealer.

Gold fell to its lowest fixing in four months upon waves of selling by U.S. funds, which are seen as holding the key to gold's direction.

Gold closed in London Tuesday at \$333.75.

Rumours Tuesday that the Belgian central bank among others was selling gold were denied by a bank official.

"I can formal deny that we have sold gold in the past months," the Belgian central bank spokeswoman said.

Technical analyst Stephen Raphael of investment advisers Brian Marber Ltd said: "A fall to \$335 now could happen very quickly."

Gold prices reached a seven-year low of \$326 in March before rallying to a three-year high of \$406.70 on Aug. 2.

The market was driven by U.S. investment funds which have poured money into the "paper" gold futures and options markets.

But it was wave after wave of profit-taking by the funds which brought prices off their August high culminating in a sales blitz Tuesday on the COMEX futures market in New York which in turn sank London bullion prices.

The funds are still the key. If they decide to get out at the bottom we're in trouble," a London dealer said.

Gold's upswing began when unprecedent, buying from newly affluent China coincided with purchases as protection against political problems in both South Africa and Russia, two of the major producers, to lift values from their floor.

But the take-off came on the news Anglo-French financier James Goldsmith sold a large chunk of his shares in U.S. gold miner Newmont Mining to investor George Soros and invested the multi-million dollar proceeds in gold options.

Investments in mutual funds said causing concerns in U.S.

NEW YORK (R) — Millions of Americans are investing in mutual funds and concerns are growing that the funds are bringing new risk to the savings of many people, and instability to markets in which they invest, the New York Times reported in its Tuesday editions.

The paper said a whole generation of savers, seeking alternatives to the two and three per cent returns available at banks, is now being transformed into investors.

"Mutual funds are becoming increasingly responsible for people's savings," the Times quoted Arthur Zeikel, president of Merrill Lynch Asset Management, as saying.

"This is cultural change. There are so many unknowns. Given the huge flow of dollars, more of these people's savings will become more volatile and less stable," he pointed out.

The Times said that since the start of the bull market in 1990, more than \$450 billion has poured into mutual funds. These include stock, bond and money funds.

Poll: 44% of French see EMS change as government failure

PARIS (AFP) — The decision in early August to widen the fluctuation margins within the European Monetary System (EMS) is seen as a "failure" for the French government and as a disguised devaluation by 44 per cent of the French, according to a Sofres poll.

But 30 per cent considered the move a "success" for the government, having enabled it to maintain the EMS, while 26 per cent expressed no opinion.

The decision, taken to end monetary turbulence, widened the permitted fluctuation margins of EMS currencies to 15 per cent

Italy state banks to be fully privatised

ROME (R) — Italy boosted its flagging privatisation programme Tuesday by announcing it would sell all its holdings in the country's two large state banks.

But, in a move that shows how difficult the government of Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi is finding it to get the plan off the ground, shares in the two banks will be sold by public offer.

The sale of both banks, Credito Italiano SPA and Banca Commerciale Italiana SPA (BCI), has been mooted for about a year.

First attempts to sell Credito by inviting competitive bids from large domestic and foreign and institutions have failed and are probably the reason why a public offering of stock is being studied, analysts said.

Instituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale (IRI), the giant state holding company that controls both the banks, said the move was decided at a board meeting Tuesday.

The operating will be realised through the placement of shares on domestic and foreign markets to realise the widest distribution of shareholders," IRI said.

Shares in the banks would be offered to employees, clients and domestic and international institutional investors.

IRI controls 54.35 per cent of BCI and around 67 per cent of

Credito. The rest of the shares are traded on the bourse.

Based on current market values, IRI's stake in Credito would be worth around 2.27 billion lire (\$1.43 billion) and BCI approximately 2.56 trillion lire (\$1.62 billion), analysts say.

The privatisation of Credito was first proposed in August last year as the government of then prime minister Giuliano Amato struggled to regain credibility for Italy in the midst of a financial crisis.

Credito and BCI are two of the seven firms at the top of Rome's privatisation list.

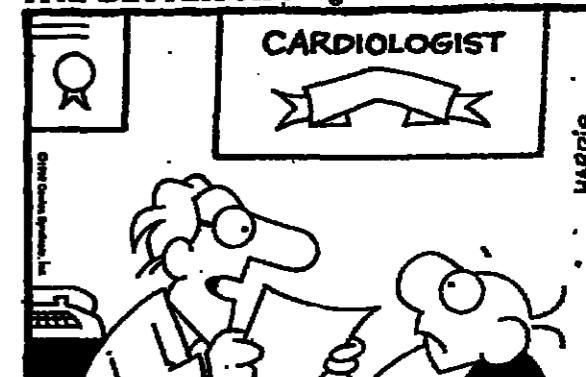
However, in an implicit statement of failure to dispose of Credito by other means, IRI said the new proposal for selling the bank would replace its long-standing attempts to privatise it by auctioning.

For months IRI has been forced to deny media reports it was unable to find bidders for Credito at anywhere near the price it wanted.

Even a sale by public placement of stocks could be difficult.

Italy will have to compete with over half a dozen banks from at least three different European countries that will be coming on to the market in the next few months.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Make the most of delays and inactions that are a pain in the neck to you today. Carry through with your down-to-earth duties or you will find that you have to re-do them later in a more difficult period.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't let problems on your job get you down but go along with necessary changes in your stride and tonight you find conditions sort themselves out rightly.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A critical acquaintance canirk you about some property or financial matter but you don't have to re-read it so take a stride, tonight be with a charming friend.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You want to be out in a position of influence in the outside world but it would only react against your best interests to keep calm.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A new activity can threaten to break up completely a long time project you've been quietly doing of utmost importance to you so be steadfast.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your main interest today should be outside contacts so don't allow conditions at your home to interfere with meeting associates, tonight please a usual ally.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Promises you have made seem difficult to carry out but do your best and don't be abrupt with other persons, tonight try to understand a partner.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take some time out not to comfort a congenial companion who is having practical anxieties and tonight you can enjoy a worldly pleasure.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Conflict between an executive and you would be detrimental to your best interests so avoid at all costs and tonight you can enjoy a longtime friend.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider well what is happen-

ing at your residence and use your utmost patience not to do anything rash while tonight you can entertain them happily.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You will feel disturbed by some messages or communications during the day but they will work out o.k. if you use your power of cooperation.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A conflict between practical problems and your creative ideas can lead to a cul-de-sac until you schedule your time to include both in your life.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your main interest today should be outside contacts so don't allow conditions at your home to interfere with meeting associates, tonight please a usual ally.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A new activity can threaten to break up completely a long time project you've been quietly doing of utmost importance to you so be steadfast.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You want to see and be with friends and acquaintances but nothing works out as you wish so rise above disappointment, tonight you can enjoy a worldly pleasure.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Conflict between an executive and you would be detrimental to your best interests so avoid at all costs and tonight you can enjoy a longtime friend.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have many new ideas just what you can do to extend your prosperity to new horizons so be open-minded to whatever arises for it can be of benefit to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Seek out those business persons with whom you have some dealings to put through and get into the practical aspects of them and make definite arrangements.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get in touch with those very down to earth associates who can further your aims and let them know what you can do to aid your progress.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have an unusually productive day wherever your activities of a work nature are concerned so make sure that you do not lose a moment in constructive planning.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think in terms of the long time and purposeful friends you have and let them know how they can aid you to obtain your personal goals and follow suggestions.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME by Henri Arnold



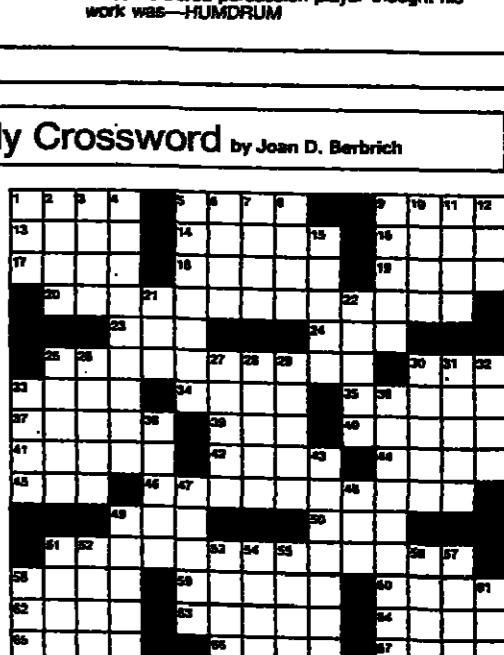
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword

by Joan D. Berbrich



Turkish premier in Moscow

Russia, Turkey to discuss Caucasus

MOSCOW (AFP) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller arrived here Wednesday for two days of talks on the worsening conflict between separatist Armenians and Azerbaijanis over the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave.

Mrs. Ciller, on her first trip abroad since taking office, is also expected to discuss bilateral ties between Ankara and Moscow in meetings with President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, and to hold talks with a delegation of Russian businessmen.

"Although we would rather not say it too loudly, this trip is obviously taking place to end a certain cooling in bilateral relations, which was caused by conflicting interests in the Caucasus," the daily *Izvestia* reported.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said Tuesday that diplomats in Moscow plan to share their "concern" with Mrs. Ciller on the possibility that the five-year conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh could spread throughout the region.

The statement came after tension rose this week along the Turkish-Armenian border, with Russian Guards stationed there on Tuesday accusing Turkish troops of firing into Armenian territory. The Turkish military denied the charge.

The Foreign Ministry statement was also referring to last week's decision by Iran to set up camps inside Azerbaijan for refugees fleeing the separatist conflict and to send troops to guard

two dams under construction along the border.

The Iranian move came after the separatists launched major assaults on Azerbaijani territory last month capturing most of the area southwest of the disputed enclave all the way to the border with Iran.

The offensive triggered a refugee exodus and raised fears in Tehran that the displaced will seek shelter in Iran.

It also raised concern in Moscow, which wants to prevent the spread of Muslim extremism in the region, that Iran would join the conflict, observers said.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said Wednesday that Iranians had penetrated one-two kilometre into Azerbaijan but that Turkey was not concerned.

"Iran's intervention is only a measure to prevent Azeri refugees from entering its own territory," he told Reuters during a visit to Moscow. "The Iranians have not crossed deep into southern Azerbaijan ... this is not alarming for us."

"We have information that they have crossed only one to two kilometres beyond the border," he said. Mr. Cetin is accompanying Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, and a 30-strong business delegation, to Moscow.

Turkey, for its part, has responded to the escalating crisis by beefing up its troops at the border with Armenia and threatening to go to war against Armenia if Yerevan attacked the Azerbaijani enclave of Nakhichevan

along the Turkish border.

But Russian diplomats dismissed the threat, saying there was little chance of Turkey following through with it.

"Even though the messages coming from Ankara are contradictory, we are more inclined to believe the recent declaration by (Turkish) President Suleyman Demirel discarding any possibility of military intervention," said one diplomat who requested anonymity.

Mrs. Ciller, during her trip here, is expected to meet Azerbaijani Acting President Geydar Aliyev, who is in Moscow to make arrangements for his war-torn republic to join the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Turkey had developed close ties with Azerbaijan under the former leadership of ousted President Abulfaz Elchibey who had moved away from Moscow during his rule.

The Turkish premier is also expected to discuss economic matters affecting Russian, Azeri and Kazakh oil shipments through Turkey, Russian natural gas sales to Turkey, and loan issues.

Mr. Aliyev Wednesday described as "encouraging" prospects for a settlement of the five-year undeclared war between Armenia and Azerbaijan following three days of talks here with Russian officials.

Mr. Aliyev told a news conference that his concerns over the

worsening conflict for control of Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian-populated enclave located inside Muslim Azerbaijan, were "met with the full understanding on the part of the Russian leadership" ITAR-TASS reported.

"Russia's role as a great power and our northern neighbour is tremendous," Mr. Aliyev said, adding: "We are counting on a greater contribution from Russia in settling this complicated issue."

Mr. Aliyev has turned to Russia for support in ending the economically crippling war and has pledged to seek membership in the Commonwealth of Independent States, the club of former Soviet republics, marking a clear departure from the pro-Turkish policies of his predecessor.

Meanwhile, informal talks between Azerbaijani officials and Armenian leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh scheduled for Wednesday in Moscow did not take place, according to a spokesman for the Nagorno-Karabakh delegation, Arkadi Gukassian.

Mr. Gukassian, quoted by Interfax, said the Azerbaijani delegation did not show up for the meeting which was to be mediated by officials from the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The spokesman added that Azerbaijan's failure to attend the talks demonstrated that Baku "was not ready to enter into a constructive dialogue" aimed at settling the conflict.

The spokesman added that Azerbaijan's failure to attend the talks demonstrated that Baku "was not ready to enter into a constructive dialogue" aimed at settling the conflict.

Mandela calls for end to S. Africa sanctions

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela called Wednesday for the lifting of international economic sanctions against South Africa by the end of September.

Mr. Mandela's call came after democracy negotiators agreed Tuesday to draft legislation to establish a multi-party Executive Council that would end exclusive white control over the government.

"The ANC has taken a decision to have sanctions lifted by the end of this month," Mr. Mandela told workers at a clothing factory at the start of a six-day tour of the Western Cape region.

"I have no doubt that the international community will respond positively," Mr. Mandela said.

Mr. Mandela's call followed the approval late Tuesday by delegates at the 23-party talks in Johannesburg of the Transitional Executive Council (TEC) draft bill, one of four bills designed to level the political playing field ahead of the scheduled April 27 non-racial election.

The multi-party TEC and its seven sub-councils will have a say over government decisions and their expected implementation by December will effectively end 45 years of apartheid rule by the National Party.

The TEC bill and those for independent media, election and broadcasting commissions are expected to be passed into law during next week's special sitting of the white-dominated parliament in Cape Town.

The ANC led the drive to isolate South Africa through economic sanctions during the 1980s, President F.W. De Klerk is expected to appeal to IFFP



African National Congress President Nelson Mandela displays an American Indian belt presented by organisers at the United States trade fair in Johannesburg Monday (AFP photo)

saying the measures would only be lifted when white rule ended.

The Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), which has boycotted talks since July 2, has said it will not serve on the TEC, as has the rightwing Conservative Party.

Political analysts believe that time is running out for Mr. Buthelezi to participate in the transition process, and both government and ANC spokesmen, while stressing they want the IFFP back, have said the process can move forward without the Zulu party.

One way of tempting the IFFP to rejoin talks is to ensure that the interim constitution negotiators still have to agree on entrenched federalism, one of the IFFP's major demands.

The interim constitution has to be agreed upon before the TEC can be set up and political analysts believe this is unlikely before late October or early November.

Spielberg gets awarded for blockbuster career

ROME (AP) — Steven Spielberg received a Golden Lion Special Career Award at the 50th Venice Film Festival, which screened his dinosaur blockbuster *Jurassic Park*. Spielberg's Jaws, E.T., Indiana Jones and other movies have earned a reported \$1.2 billion, more than the films of any other director. And the American director is only 45. The first Golden Lion was awarded on the event's eighth day. Speculation was that other career prizes will go to Robert De Niro, director Roman Polanski and actress Claudia Cardinale. Spielberg also spoke at a symposium that announced formation of an International Union of Filmmakers. He called U.S. law permitting the ceding of authors' rights "the tragedy of American film" and called for more protection worldwide. At the end of his speech, the American director offered to return a 1966 Golden Lion director Gillo Pontecorvo sold him in an auction to raise money for the cause. Pontecorvo refused, but hugged him as other directors applauded and cameras flashed. "I travelled 6,000 miles (9,600 kms), but I'll find a way to do it," Spielberg said.

Wife who cut off husband's organ charged

MANASSAS, Virginia (AFP) — A woman was indicted on malicious wounding charges after she cut off her husband's penis and later threw it out the window of a car. Twenty-four-year-old Lorena Bobbitt told investigators her husband awakened her and forced her to have sex. Afterwards she took a kitchen knife and sliced off her husband's sex organ. She then threw the penis out of her car window as she drove to the police station to report she had been raped. Police later recovered the penis and surgeons were able to reattach it in a nine-hour operation. Husband John Bobbitt, charged with marital sexual assault, denies raping his wife. Lorena Bobbitt has since filed for divorce.

Body tattooing makes comeback in China

HONG KONG (AFP) — Body tattooing has become fashionable again in China among young people, even though many of them face discrimination because of it, a report said Wednesday. Tattooing was banned by the Communists after their takeover in 1949 but has now made a comeback said the Peking-funded China News Service. But it said people who had tattoos often faced discriminations as the practice was often associated with criminal gangs. In Hubei, Shandong and Shandong provinces, several men were turned away from enlisting in the army for having tattoos. Recruiting officers said "We don't enlist hoodlums," said the agency. Some young women described tattoos as "a sign of love" to show their idols, while young men often saw them as a symbol of "camaraderie" the agency said.

Chinese chain letter catches top local leaders

PEKING (R) — A chain letter offering a choice between fortune and disaster is making the rounds of China's top local legislators, who are flocking to sign up in hope of becoming instant millionaires. The official China Youth Daily said the letter, which must be sent on to five new people by each recipient, was a "supreme reference," Mr. Sereyath said. The assembly votes on the new constitution next week.

Meanwhile, an international conference on aid to rebuild war-torn Cambodia opened here Wednesday marked by the signing of a \$2 million franc (\$10.8

million) French aid package for the provisional government in Phnom Penh.

French Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery and Cambodian Finance Minister Sam Rainy signed the protocol shortly before representatives of more than 30 countries met to allocate their contributions.

Addressing the opening, Japanese Chairman Tadashi Ikeda, a Foreign Ministry official, read out a message in which Japanese Vice-Premier Tsutomu Hata pledged "maximum possible support to Cambodia."

Opening the conference, Mr. Alphandery emphasised Cambodia's dire economic situation and called for "international financial assistance on a large scale."

In Tokyo in June 1992, the donors pledged more than \$880 million in reconstruction aid, to be disbursed in theory by the end of 1993, but very little has been paid up, largely because of continuing violence and insecurity.

Concrete details of new aid were expected to be disclosed Thursday, at the end of this two-day first meeting of the International Conference on the Reconstruction of Cambodia (ICORC).

French officials said that Paris would have paid 300 million francs (\$54 million) by the end of the year, about what it had pledged in Tokyo.

But Japan was expected to be the biggest contributor, conference sources said, and was expected to reimburse nearly half of Cambodia's arrears — \$51 million — owed to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The arrears have to be cleared before Cambodia can receive regular IMF and World Bank aid.

"This is an opportunity not to be missed," the letter was quoted as saying. "It is a chance to become a millionaire." Those who break the chain and do not forward on new copies were warned they would "regret it for the rest of their lives." One Sichuan deputy who declined to send on new letters was hit by a car while riding his bike, the letter said. An Inner Mongolian representative who broke the chain was found dead from his roof and crushed his daughter, it said. The media obtained a copy of the chain letter from a member of the Hubei People's Congress, who said he felt "deeply ashamed" for his misguided fellow representatives.

Vietnamese officials said Wednesday the newly-disclosed Soviet report was untrue.

An official government denial of the report was expected later in the day.

Initial unofficial reaction in Hanoi was that the document could delay any U.S. action to ease the embargo because it would take weeks to analyse.

There were suggestions it might have been deliberately released now to dent prospects of an end to the sanctions.

"This was almost predictable," a Western diplomat said. "A lot of people had predicted something like this."

Kidnappers put bite on dog-owner

NEW DELHI (AFP) — An Indian villager whose dog went missing has been ordered to pay a ransom of 1,000 rupees (\$33) by kidnappers for the pet's release.

The dog owner, in the northern district of Muzaffarnagar, received the ransom note and police are on the job, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

Hosokawa basks in record-high polls

TOKYO (R) — One month after forming his government, Japan's new prime minister — stylish, straightforward and a symbol of political change — is enjoying record approval ratings.

At the same time, commentators are voicing concern about whether Morio Hosokawa's coalition government will be able to speed up decision-making to tackle pressing issues like the economic recession and U.S. trade demands.

"The new government, bringing political change after decades of stagnation, is off to a remarkably good start," said political columnist Minoru Morita.

"Having an appealing, frank leader like Hosokawa helps, but it won't be enough if the government fails to be effective."

Three media polls published Wednesday all showed the 55-year-old Hosokawa, who has ushered in a more casual style of leadership, riding a wave of unprecedented popularity.

A Kyodo News Agency survey of 2,200 respondents described Mr. Hosokawa's government as the most popular of post-war times — with an overwhelming support rating of 79 per cent.

A daily Asahi Shimbun poll of the same scale said support for Mr. Hosokawa and his cabinet stood at 71 per cent in September, the highest of any administration since the newspaper began keeping tabs in 1946.

Mr. Hosokawa's popularity contrasts sharply with the single-digit ratings of his predecessor, Toshi Miyazawa.

Mr. Miyazawa's failure to clean up politics after a string of pay-off scandals sparked the downfall of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). After losing its parliamentary majority in a July general election, the LDP was forced to relinquish its 38-year monopoly on power to Mr. Hosokawa's eight-party coalition.

A third poll by the Mainichi shinbun placed Mr. Hosokawa's public support at 65 per cent — also a record high in its books compared to other premiers. However, the daily said backing had slipped from 75 per cent one month ago when the new cabinet was sworn in.

"People are getting worried about whether the coalition members can overcome their differences and get down to the business of governing," said Keio University's Seisaburo Sato.

"They're making some progress but it's taking time because if the need to reach a consensus," he said. "The coalition leaders must create some system to hasten decision-making."

The coalition, spanning a spectrum from centre-right LDP splinter groups to left-wing socialists, finally agreed to a draft law for political reform late last month, two weeks behind schedule. Alliance leaders continue to range over details.

They are also divided over the makeup of an emergency package, due to be finalised by Sept. 1 and aimed at propping up an economy in one of its worst post-war downturns.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope arrives in Latvia

RIGA, Latvia (R) — Pope John Paul, starting a visit to Latvia, Wednesday backed the Baltic country's demands that Russian troops should leave its territory, a spokeswoman for Latvia's president said. President Guntis Ulmanis met the Pope several hours after the Pontiff arrived to start the second leg of his first trip to countries of the former Soviet Union. Spokeswoman Anta Buss said they discussed the issue of some 16,000 ex-Soviet troops remaining in Latvia. The Pope said he understood the situation, that these are foreign troops and should leave the territory of Latvia," she said at a briefing after the private meeting. The last Russian troops left Lithuania four days before the Pope arrived there but neither Latvia nor Estonia, where the Pope makes a day trip Friday, has succeeded in agreeing terms with Moscow for a pullout.

Nigeria to hold elections next February

LAGOS (AFP) — Nigeria's Electoral Commission has proposed that presidential elections should be held next Feb. 19 at a meeting with the interim government, press reports said Wednesday. The date was put to the government and representatives of the two authorised political parties, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the National Republican Convention (NRC). Tuesday, the champion newspaper reported. If it proves acceptable, a run-off second round could be held on March 5 and a new president sworn in on March 31, the date set by the Nigerian military for the new interim government to end its term. The commission also suggested that local government elections be held on Dec. 18.

Japanese imperial couple tour Rome

ROME (AFP) — Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan took an unexpected and highly unusual dip into a crowd of Japanese tourists during a private visit to Rome Wednesday. "What joy to meet you so far from our fatherland, your majesty," exclaimed one young woman, who could never have got so close to the imperial couple in Japan. "I hope you'll also come to Germany where I live," said a student. "That's part of my programme. See you soon," the emperor replied.

The imperial couple were visiting the main tourist attractions of Rome and the Vatican City after the official part of their visit to Italy ended Wednesday morning with a ceremony at the Quirinal Palace, seat of the Italian presidency. The emperor and President Luigi Oscar Scalfaro reviewed troops at the palace's central courtyard before being joined by the empress and the president's daughter, Mariana Scalfaro.

Russia urged to maintain reform drive

WASHINGTON (R) — The Clinton administration has urged Russia to push forward with its reforms following its recent economic reverses. "The battle for economic reform in Russia has now entered a new and critical phase in which many of Russia's accomplishments on the economic front are being put at serious risk," said Treasury Undersecretary Lawrence Summers. "The momentum for Russian reform must be reinvigorated and intensified to ensure sustained multilateral support," he said. Mr. Summers was appearing with other officials, before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which is preparing to work on a foreign aid bill containing \$2.5 billion in Russian aid. Strobe Talbott, ambassador at large to the former Soviet states, appealed to the committee to approve the aid and sought to allay fears that Russian reforms had stalled following backsliding on fiscal and monetary policy.

Grachev leaves for U.S.

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev Wednesday flew to the United States for a four-day visit that will feature talks with U.S. counterpart Les Aspin and President Bill Clinton. Mr. Grachev was to be ferried by helicopter to the Pentagon immediately after his arrival for talks with Mr. Aspin on military cooperation

Irbid hosts Ramtha Soccer Championship

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Soccer fans will have a full schedule for the upcoming two weeks as the 2nd Ramtha Soccer Championship opens in Irbid Thursday, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Hassan.

The championship, organised by first division club Al Ramtha, has attracted six teams: Palestine's Gaza, Al Wakrah of Qatar, Al Whideh of Syria, the Youth's National Team of Iraq, in addition to Al Whideh and Al Ramtha of Jordan.

Participating teams have been divided into two groups. After the preliminary round, the first and second placed teams in each group will advance to the semifinal round. The final match will be

held Mon. Sept. 20. All matches will be played at Al Hassan Sports City Stadium in Irbid. Al Ramtha, who had won the 1st Ramtha Championship in 1991, will be seeking to overcome competition and retain their title.

SCHEDULE OF MATCHES

Thur. Sept. 9	Ramtha vs. Gaza
Fri. Sept. 10	Whideh vs. Wakrah
Sat. Sept. 11	Iraq vs. Gaza
Mon. Sept. 13	Whideh vs. Whideh
Tue. Sept. 14	Ramtha vs. Iraq
Thur. Sept. 16	Wakrah vs. Whideh
Fri. 17 and Sat. 18	semifinal round
Mon. Sept. 20	final match

Kasparov defeats Short in opener

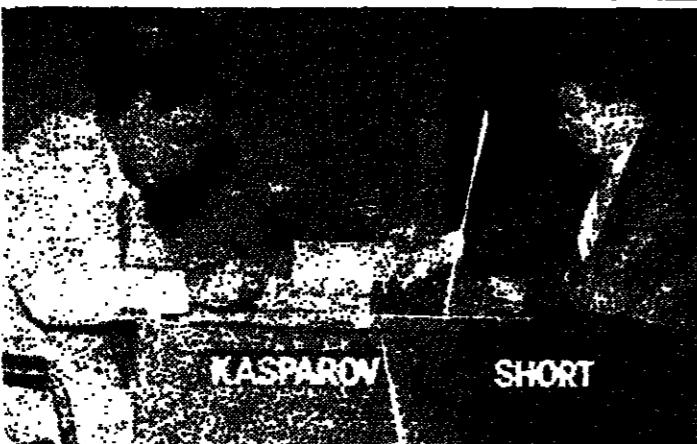
LONDON (R) — Reigning world chess champion Garry Kasparov won a thrilling opener in his title defence when challenger Nigel Short forfeited the game by exceeding the time limit with only two moves left to make.

Short's loss on time shocked chess experts who expected a draw or a hurried false move by one of the players as they ran close to the two-hour time limit to complete 40 moves.

"This probably the first time in a world championship match when my opponent lost on time in a position which was drawish," Kasparov told British television after the game at London's Savoy Hotel.

Kasparov opened hesitantly in spite of the advantage of playing the white pieces which make the important first move.

He quickly regained confi-



Kasparov (left) and Short during their chess match.

dence and began to spend time backstage, eating Swiss chocolate and drinking mineral water, while Short pondered on stage.

Grandmasters analysing the game at the nearby Simpsons-On-The-Strand Cafe, had not expected Short to have any problems after Kasparov's tame opening strategy.

Experts' admiration grew as Kasparov methodically piled the pressure on Short, 28, but they were perplexed by the task of trying to determine where the Briton had gone wrong.

With only five minutes and 13 moves left for each player, Kasparov launched a speculative but dangerous attack, sacrificing pawns around his own king.

Experts suspected Kasparov might have missed a win in the nervous flurry of moves in the final minutes but Short had managed to reach a better position when he overstepped the time control as he made his 39th move.

Short, who reached the

time limit, was forced to resign as Kasparov methodically piled the pressure on Short, 28, but they were perplexed by the task of trying to determine where the Briton had gone wrong.

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And when it was over, when Courier and his snarling, cursing and racket-dropping had nowhere else to go, Pioline had a 7-5, 6-7 (7-4) 6-4, 6-4 victory over the world's top-ranked player.

Hours later, it was Becker's turn. He had the crowd behind him. He seemed ready to make another trademark comeback from two sets down as he did in the first round and seven times

before. But his once mighty serve failed him in the end he, too, was gone against a stranger, losing to Sweden's Larsson 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 7-5.

"I thought a train hit me," Becker said. "I guess to come back again from two sets to love down was a little bit too much for me tonight. I was the opposite of being nervous. In a fourth-round match, at night before a full house, you should be nervous.

Todays, I was very calm, almost flat out there."

Larsson, a clay specialist who

played in only six hard-court

tournaments this year, out-sued Becker 15-10. Becker double-faulted eight times to the Swede's one.

If Becker's loss was stunning, Courier's was historic. The last time a Frenchman beat the No. 1 seed at the U.S. Championships was 1927, when Rene Lacoste toppled Bill Tilden.

Courier, who will lose his No. 1

ranking if Pete Sampras reaches

the final, dug himself into trouble with his mistakes in this match as much as his arrogance toward the public.

Despite Courier's success this



A surprised Boris Becker (AP photo)

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Despite Courier's success this

year — the Australian Open title, the finals of the French Open and Wimbledon — his increasingly churlish behaviour on and off the court is endearing him to no one. He chalked up the crowd's cheers for the No. 15 Pioline to a typical American desire for an upset.

"Everybody loves the underdog," Courier said.

But it seemed deeper and nastier than that. When Courier was down two sets to one, the crowd didn't get behind him, didn't try to lift him as it did Jimmy Connors or John McEnroe in the past or Martina Navratilova in her loss Monday. This Open has been filled with upsets, but all the big names who have fallen were cheered to the end — except Courier.

Immediately after Pioline's victory, a brief thunder and lightning storm struck, as if to punctuate the moment. When the storm passed, Women's No. 1 Graf shakily advanced to the semifinals with a 6-2, 5-7, 6-1 victory over 1990 champion and No. 5 seed Sabatini.

"I'm always very critical of myself," Graf said. "I think we both could have played better. My serve was not on at all. And I think she could do more damage as well."

Graf appeared in good shape, serving to end the match at 5-3 in the second set. But Sabatini suddenly played more daringly. She broke, then staved off match point on her own serve and took the set by winning four straight games.

"I just didn't play aggressive enough," Graf said. "I told myself to go for it in the third set."

Graf, winner of the French Open and Wimbledon, will play

Maleeva-Fragniere, who beat Kimiko Date 7-5, 7-5. Maleeva-Fragniere, playing what she says will be her final Open at age 26, has been winning despite having chipped a bone in her pinky last week in practice before her third-round match.

"Every match I have won here has been a dream, from the last three matches, since I broke my finger," she said. "I still cannot realise it. It seems so incredible that I am in the semifinals."

"I thought, if there is a God up there, why is he doing this to me? And now I see why he did it. Maybe this is the way he made me play better," — Maleeva-Fragniere said, on her dream come true of winning three matches in a row since breaking her finger and reaching the semifinals.

Tennis today — style and technology

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The dizzying names of today's tennis rackets match the giddy image of the sport. On the surface, tennis seems to be as much about clothing and racket design as lobs and crosscourt forehands.

"People like gimmicks," said Brad Gilbert, who lost in the fourth round of the U.S. Open to No. 12 seed Thomas Muster of Austria. "All these different names — the viper and the venom — these things breed competition. People want to have better for cheaper, it's always the new, improved."

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Wad Sayyed Al Shaghaf	
play (Arabic)	
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30	

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Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays	
Problem Child 2	
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	

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U.S. team arrives in Jordan to study impact of sanctions

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An American delegation arrived here Wednesday for talks with Jordanian officials on the impact of the sanctions against Iraq on the Kingdom's economy.

The team is headed by State Department inspector and career diplomat David Newton and includes officials from the Treasury and Pentagon.

The delegation's visit comes in realisation of a promise made by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his talks with His Majesty King Hussein in the course of a Middle East mission in August.

The State Department said in a statement issued Tuesday:

"Following recent visits by King Hussein of Jordan and Prime Minister (Abdul Salam Al) Majali to Washington, D.C., and by Secretary Christopher to Amman, the United States is sending a team to Jordan this week to continue our discussions with Jordanian officials on ways to enhance enforcement of United Nations sanctions against Iraq by the government of Jordan."

"The team will also discuss with Jordanian officials possible ways to ameliorate the negative economic consequences of strict enforcement, without in any way compromising the integrity of enforcement mechanisms."

"We will, of course, consult with the United Nations and our allies in our findings and ideas before taking any action which might affect activities governed by United Nations Security Council resolutions."

Jordanian sources said the government had prepared a "comprehensive" report to be submitted to the American delegation. The report, drawn up by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), contains the various negative consequences of the sanctions on Jordan, including lost revenues and additional economic burdens.

"The overzealous enforcement

of the inspection of Aqaba-bound shipping is one of the key elements in the report," said one of the sources, noting that such inspections have led to economic losses for Jordan's public as well as private sectors in terms of additional freight and insurance costs as well as costly delays.

One of the ideas expected to be raised during the American delegation's talks here is "self-monitoring" of the sanctions against Iraq.

Under the proposal, Jordan will ensure that no goods in violation of the sanctions enter or leave Iraq through Jordanian territory or, and such an arrangement could do away with or reduce the inspection on high seas of ships heading for and leaving Aqaba.

It was not known how the Americans viewed the proposal. In mid-1992, Jordan turned down a U.S. suggestion that international observers be deployed in the Kingdom's territory, saying such a move would be a violation of its sovereignty and would raise question marks on the credibility of its international undertakings.

Since then, however, Jordanian-American relations have improved considerably and very little traces remain of the strain caused by the Gulf crisis and American accusations that contraband goods were reaching Iraq through Jordan.

The Clinton administration has certified to Congress that Jordan is adhering to the sanctions and that the administration was taking the Kingdom's assurances seriously.

Such certification has cleared the way for releases of American aid to Jordan.

Finance Minister Sami Gammoudi told business Monday that the government had made all arrangements for the American delegation to "meet all concerned government and private sector institutions" so that the team could get a clear picture of Jordan's losses from the sanctions on Iraq.



PRO-PEACE RALLY: Supporters play bagpipes and hold portraits of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and the late Abu Jihad during a rally in Hebron Wednesday in favour of the autonomy agreement with Israel (AFP photo)

Arab League says economic boycott of Israel will remain

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Arab League said Wednesday that its 42-year-old economic boycott of Israel will remain until all occupied Arab territory is returned, including East Jerusalem.

The boycott was established because of the Israeli occupation, and they know it will not be removed until the occupation ends," Adnan Omran, the league's deputy secretary-general, said.

"Peace cannot happen until there is a complete withdrawal from every inch of Arab territory occupied after 1967, including Arab Jerusalem."

The boycott was formally established in 1951, banning Arab trade with any company dealing with Israel. The goal was to disable the economy of the Jewish state and end the occupation of Palestine.

The 21-member league runs the boycott from the Boycott of Israel Bureau in Damascus. The trade rules have been widely ignored for years, partly because major Arab trading partners Germany and the United States forbid their nationals from honouring the boycott.

Mr. Omran said the proposed agreement for limited Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho does not constitute a peace treaty between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), an Arab League member. He also pointed out that no Arab country has proposed to end the boycott.

Egypt broke the boycott after its 1979 peace treaty with Israel, the first and only one between an Arab country and the Jewish state.

Entry of 60 Gazans said restricted

AMMAN (AP) — Jordan has restricted the entry of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, undermining the Kingdom's fear of a massive Palestinian exodus during a self-rule period in the Israeli-occupied territories, officials said Wednesday.

A security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said since Monday Jordan had been turning away Gaza residents at the King Hussein Bridge, which links the Kingdom with the occupied West Bank.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, he said on Tuesday, "about 60 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, carrying Egyptian laissez-passer, were not allowed to proceed into Jordanian territory."

Between 1948 and 1967, Egypt administered the Gaza Strip and provided travel documents to its Palestinian inhabitants.

"Jordan is strictly supervising the entry of Palestinians into the country," the official said. "This measure was in coordination with, and with the consent of, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)."

He said the agreement was reached during an Aug. 24 meeting of the border and security affairs committee, which was formed July 10 and consists of Jordanian and PLO officials.

That committee, along with five others, is discussing matters pertaining to the Palestinians during a proposed five-year interim period of self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Jordanian move, came amid fears that a PLO-Israel deal on partial Palestinian autonomy could backfire, leading to an exodus of Palestinians from the territories and destabilising the Kingdom, which has a majority Palestinian population.

The deal, reached in secret negotiations in Norway, foresees an Israeli pullout from Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho within six months.

King Hussein has unequivocally supported the deal.

Kuwait officially withdrew from the boycott in June. Saudi Arabia said after the 1990-91 Gulf war that it would add no new names to the blacklist. Other Gulf countries started quietly ending strict adherence after the 1991 Middle East peace conference in Madrid that started the Arab-Israeli peace process.

"Israel should not expect the boycott to be removed altogether just because it recognises the Palestine Liberation Organisation and grants self-rule to Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho," said a Gulf-based boycott official, who requested anonymity.

"But I expect the indirect boycott to be eased gradually, not under a collective decision but as an individual initiative. I think this will encourage Israel to relax its position and offer more for peace."

Israel says the boycott has cost it nearly \$50 billion while many companies from the United States and other Western countries have also suffered after they were blacklisted by Arab states for dealing with it.

Under the direct boycott, Arab states stopped all forms of dealing with Israel while the indirect boycott affected foreign companies investing in Israel, having branches there, and those providing aid to the Jewish state. The blacklist also included firms in which Israeli companies have a share.

Ships flying the Israeli flag or calling on Israeli ports and all pro-Israeli publications have also been banned in the Arab world.

"The Israeli-PLO accord virtually means an end to their war

but Israel remains technically at war with other Arab countries until they sign a similar agreement," an Arab boycott official said.

"I do not think there will be any decision to end the direct boycott until its cause — the Israeli occupation of Arab land — disappears," he said.

"But there could be a relaxation in the indirect boycott. As was the case with South Africa, I believe the taboo of dealing with Israel will break gradually."

Wealthy Gulf Arab states have been under pressure by the United States to ease the sanctions against Israel on the grounds the ban hampered U.S. trade with the region as many American firms were blacklisted.

Hundreds of other U.S. and Western companies have also been forced to end dealing with Israel to regain access to the lucrative Arab market, which receives more than 60 per cent of its imports from the West.

The Arab boycott officials said ending the direct and indirect siege would largely benefit Israel and would harm Arab states.

"Israel is much more advanced than Arab countries and its industrial production is huge compared with that in Arab states," one official said.

"Ending the boycott means Israel will find a vast outlet for its products and Israeli companies or firms related to Israel can set up industrial projects in Arab states," he said. "This will hit Arab industries as they will be less competitive. I think Arabs will pay the price of removing the boycott."

African leaders announce Sudan, Somalia initiative

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — Six African nations have announced a new initiative to end a 10-year war in southern Sudan, state-run Ethiopian radio said Wednesday.

The broadcast said the move was decided by presidents of Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Djibouti, Uganda and Eritrea during a summit of the intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development.

Somalia, the seventh member of the authority, was not represented at the summit because it has no government.

The broadcast said the presidents established a committee to conduct negotiations between Sudan and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has split into four factions.

All the countries are neighbours of Sudan.

President Omar Hassan Al Bashir of Sudan was quoted as saying the new initiative did not necessarily mean an end to unfruitful mediation by Ibrahim Babangida, Nigeria's former president.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, he said on Tuesday, "about 60 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, carrying Egyptian laissez-passer, were not allowed to proceed into Jordanian territory."

Between 1948 and 1967, Egypt administered the Gaza Strip and provided travel documents to its Palestinian inhabitants.

"Jordan is strictly supervising the entry of Palestinians into the country," the official said. "This measure was in coordination with, and with the consent of, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)."

He said the agreement was reached during an Aug. 24 meeting of the border and security affairs committee, which was formed July 10 and consists of Jordanian and PLO officials.

That committee, along with five others, is discussing matters pertaining to the Palestinians during a proposed five-year interim period of self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Jordanian move, came amid fears that a PLO-Israel deal on partial Palestinian autonomy could backfire, leading to an exodus of Palestinians from the territories and destabilising the Kingdom, which has a majority Palestinian population.

The deal, reached in secret negotiations in Norway, foresees an Israeli pullout from Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho within six months.

King Hussein has unequivocally supported the deal.

prone to a myriad of natural and human-made disasters, including drought, famines and locust invasions. And all nations in the region have experienced varied degrees of civil strife over the past three decades.

The summit called on the U.N. to take steps to involve other countries of the region — the world's poorest — in efforts to restore peace and stability to Somalia.

"Caution is required in handling the current very complicated political situation in Somalia," said the final communiqué, adopted unanimously.

The summit set up a committee consisting of the heads of state of Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda to try and promote progress on peace settlement in Sudan, where civil war has been raging for eight years.

Political analysts said Sudan — declared a terrorist state by Washington — would not have accepted the regional initiative a few years ago, but was feeling increasingly isolated.

The summit praised the United Nations for having prevented thousands of deaths in Somalia from starvation and conflict with a ground-breaking U.S.-led "humanitarian intervention" last December to protect food supplies from gunmen.

But the leaders called for talks with the U.N. military command, reflecting growing world apprehension the accompanying military operation had degenerated into virtual guerrilla war against gunmen loyal to fugitive warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed.

"We call for a more meaningful consultation between UNOSOM (United Nations Operation in Somalia) and the countries of the sub-region and ... for a more active role on the part of the countries of the sub-region," the communiqué said.

"The ideal solution is purely African mechanism with African finance," Gen. Bashir said.

On the main agenda of the summit, the presidents announced a five-year regional plan of cooperation in food security, environment protection, energy and communications.

The region borders the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean and is

Minister reaffirms Jordan's stand to Russian envoy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Wednesday held talks with Victor Pasavalyuk, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East and Africa Department, and reaffirmed Jordan's support for the independent Palestinian decision under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Mr. Pasavalyuk, who arrived here from Syria earlier in the day, is Russia's top expert on the Middle East peace process and his talks in Damascus and Amman dealt with the recent Palestinian autonomy agreement reached between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Petra quoted Mr. Hassan as telling the Russian official that the agreement was the beginning of solutions to all crucial issues in

the Middle East peace process, including the status of Jerusalem.

Mr. Pasavalyuk underlined Jordan's key role in the peace process and said his visit was aimed at following up the recent developments in the region and seeking means to boost the peace process.

In a statement to Petra, the Russian official noted that his country had endorsed the Israel-PLO accord and was keen to listen to Jordan's views on the subject.

Russia, which cosponsors the peace process with the U.S., will exert all efforts to achieve success in the effort for peace in the Middle East, he said.

A spokesman for the Russian embassy in Amman told the Jordan Times that Mr. Pasavalyuk was carrying a message from the Russian leadership to the Jordanian leadership.

He did not give details.

Exiles rejoice over return home of 189

MAR AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Palestinians expelled by Israel rejoiced with cheers, hugs and some tears when Israel named 189 allowed to return Thursday after nearly nine months in South Lebanon.

Expellees swarmed around a 70-year-old Lebanese civilian ordered by the Israeli army to take a list of those being allowed back to their tent camp on a hillside three kilometres north of Israel's frontlines.

Wealthy Gulf Arab states have been under pressure by the United States to ease the sanctions against Israel on the grounds the ban hampered U.S. trade with the region as many American firms were blacklisted.

Hundreds of other U.S. and Western companies have also been forced to end dealing with Israel to regain access to the lucrative Arab market, which receives more than 60 per cent of its imports from the West.

The Arab boycott officials said ending the direct and indirect siege would largely benefit Israel and would harm Arab states.

"I'm thrilled to hear I'm going back but this is mixed with pain because my elder brother Munir has to stay," said Mohsen Al Maswadi, 28, with tears in his eyes. Israel will allow the remaining exiles to return in December.

"They threw us here like into a grave, into the cold and snow. But people helped us and we learned patience," he added.

They have languished in a barren border in South Lebanon. Lebanon refused to take them. saying it would not become a dumping ground for Palestinians expelled by Israel.

New train suits were distributed to the 189 returnees. Some of those who were to leave took snapshots of friends who would stay behind at the Mar Al Zohour camp, two kilometers north of Zummara crossing.

Some performed the dabke folk dance on the rocky slope where they have been camped in tents since Israel expelled them in retaliation for last year's killing of six Israeli troops, which it blamed on Palestinian fundamentalists.

Israeli troops opened the Zummara gate on the southeastern edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon to let them return.

Most of the men belong to the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas movement. Others are associated with the Islamic Jihad in Palestine movement. Israel expelled them in retaliation for last year's killing of six Israeli troops, which it blamed on Palestinian fundamentalists.

Israeli troops opened the Zummara gate on the southeastern edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon to let them return.

The exiles say they were forced to agree to the Israeli offer to take them back in stages as many had fallen ill and their stay in Lebanon failed to stop peace talks.

There has been no word on whether all will be allowed to return home or whether, as many of them have feared, they would be jailed in Israel.

Nevertheless, the exiles hugged and kissed men whose names were on the list.

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Under the auspices of the Jordanian police, the PLA initiated three months ago training programmes in which cadets receive "special training and martial arts exercises," the official said.

He said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat inaugurated the graduation ceremony of the first batch of 800 trainees during his visit last week to Jordan. The courses are to continue until the PLA troops move on to Palestinian soil.

"The Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), scattered in Arab countries, is to become a 'national security force' within the framework of the self-rule accord on the Gaza Strip and Jericho," the official, who requested anonymity, told AFP.

"These forces